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Friday, January 7, 1977

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HOME NEWS

Slater company 'set up as incentive to executives not to deal in Far East stock market'

James Slater set up a company called Spyder Securities for the benefit of some executives to stop them becoming involved in personal market dealings, according to an alleged statement by the financier, read at a Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

The statement, said to have been made at Bow Street police station, was read by Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, counsel for the Singapore Government. Singapore is seeking the extradition of Mr Slater and Mr Richard Tarling, former head of Slater, Walker activities in the Far East.

The alleged statement said Mr Slater agreed to take part in Spyder on Mr Tarling's suggestion. It quoted Mr Slater as saying: "There was no motive for me to become involved in a fraudulent scheme. The intention was to give incentives to executives to make sure they did not deal in the local stock market."

It was a well known Slater, Walker practice to arrange a share scheme for executives, the statement continued. Otherwise personal dealings on the "frenetic" Far East stock exchange would have taken their minds off their real jobs.

Mr Slater was alleged to have said that his own participation in the scheme would have been welcomed in some countries as a sign that he was directly con-

cerned with the well being of his companies.

"The apparent suggestion is that I am responsible for the non-disclosure of the scheme to the Haw Par shareholders.

I had nothing to do with that."

Haw Par was a Singapore company which, for nearly two years, was controlled by Slater, Walker executives.

Mr Slater was said to have added: "While Spyder was established on a confidential basis it was, of course, intended that all legal requirements should be complied with."

"Therefore", it continued, "I had nothing to do with the implementation of the scheme." However, it was accepted that a civil claim by Haw Par, "But I emphatically deny that there was any intent to defraud Haw Par", the alleged statement said.

At the beginning of the alleged statement Mr Slater was said to have explained that he was in charge of 19 United Kingdom companies, 17 overseas companies, and 400 subsidiaries at the time. Because of the company's complexity it was mentally and physically impossible for him to concern himself with anything but important policy decisions and company structure.

Mr Waterhouse then read a letter which he said, Mr Slater had sent to one of the Singapore investigators. In it Mr Slater was alleged to have said:

The case continues today.

Criticism of fire rules in home where 10 died

Fire precautions at Wensley Lodge old people's home at West Hill, Bessle, near Hull, where 10 people died in a fire on Wednesday night, were inadequate, a member of staff said last night.

Mr Brian Pellowe, aged 37, a care assistant who has worked at the home for 11 months, made the allegation after a formal inquiry by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Security into the incident had been started. He was on duty until 9 pm on Wednesday.

He said: "I was told not to talk to the press and I shall probably lose my job. But some one has to speak."

"I put 11 of these people to bed, and nine are dead. In my opinion the fire precautions were inadequate. There were no exterior fire escapes."

"There were blind deaf and helpless people. Some had more than one disability."

Mr Pellowe said there were too few staff on duty when the alarm was raised, as the 49 residents, some in their eighties and nineties, were going to bed.

He said: "Last week a memo came round restricting our overtime. If that had not happened I would have been on duty until 10 pm."

"There would have been two men on duty between nine and 10, when the fire started instead of one. Before I left at 9 pm I checked the building, and there was nothing wrong. But for the overtime restriction an extra man could have made all the difference."

Mr Pellowe said the fiercest flames during the fire were in a bedroom above the boiler room. On Wednesday workers using torches had been repairing the boiler, he said. The boiler room contained a 300-gallon tank of fuel oil.

Mr Michael Wheaton, vice-chairman of Hull's social service committee, said there was no secret about the cut in overtime at the home. But that in no way affected the number of staff on duty when the fire broke out.

The alarm was raised at 9.30 pm by Mr George Pearson, who was taking over from Mr Pellowe. Mr Pearson was not due until 10 pm.

Mr Edward Park, chief of Humberside Fire Brigade, said yesterday that control of the fire took longer than normal. The fire-fighting appliances in the home were adequate and complied with the code of practice for such premises. They also met the high standards of the county council, he added.

Firemen were searching the debris last night for more possible victims. Nine bodies had been recovered and a tenth could be seen.

Nineteen other residents were injured in the fire. One of them was on the serious list and hospitalised last night.

A resident who could be accounted for, later telephoned the police to say he was in the village public house.

Several members of the staff, an ambulance driver and a fireman were also injured. The fireman, Mr Norman Dean, fell down a lift shaft.

The crucial union ballots on Programme for Action, the joint union-management document containing a survival programme for Fleet Street newspapers, may take place early in February.

The document sets out terms on redundancy payments, pensions, new technology, dispute procedures and other crucial issues in an attempt to save the national newspaper industry from further decline.

Individual unions are being left to decide the wording of the ballot forms, although the TUC has offered the advice of a straight question inviting a "yes" or "no" answer. It is not clear whether the electricians' and engineering workers' unions will call ballots or test opinion in other ways.

It is understood that there is a move in the National Union of Journalists to get the issue decided at the annual delegates' conference later this year. The question is expected to be discussed at the union's executive meeting at the end of this month.

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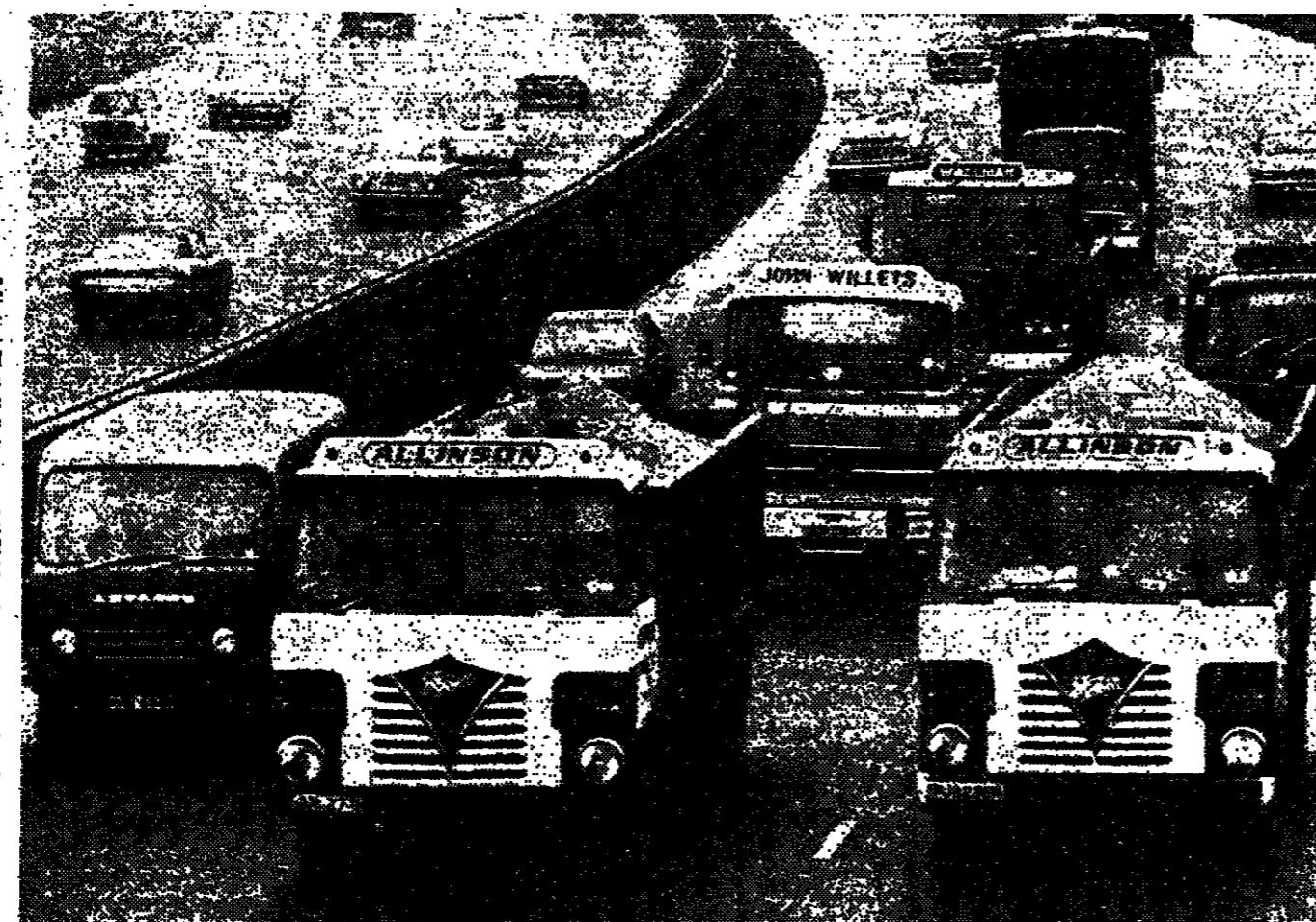
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HOME NEWS

Two die as fog and ice grip four motorways

Heavy lorries crowding the M62 yesterday as accident reports flooded in from motorways in north-west England.

Two people, one a policeman, were killed and at least 17 were injured in more than 20 accidents in fog and ice on motorways in north-west England yesterday. Conditions on the area's four main motorways, the M6, M61, M62, and M63, were described by the Automobile Association as "unprecedented".

Police-constable John Cameron, aged 27, of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, died when a police car overturned and burst into flames after being in collision with a lorry. The crash occurred in thick fog at the junction of the M62 and M63 at Hapton Bridge, near Bury.

His companion, PC Michael Kennedy, was treated for a fractured jaw. The two men were driving to join the patrols when the accident occurred.

The other man who died was Mr John Morphet, aged 50, of Thomas Street, Hindley Green, Wigan. He was killed in the second of a long series of crashes on the M62.

At one time 40 miles of the M62, from Middlesbrough to the Yorkshire boundary, was affected by accidents. Traffic police said the highways were like ice rinks.

Drivers were condemned by a senior officer in the Greater Manchester Police control room. "No accident was quickly followed by others because motorists were going too fast despite the attempts of the police to slow them down," he said. "Speed limits did not have any effect."

John Christie writes from Manchester: Overhead lighting on the whole of the stretch over the Pennines, reported 69 accidents, with three deaths and 110 injuries in 1975 and 45 accidents, with one person killed and 70 injured, in the first nine months of 1976.

Tenders for lighting the Irwell valley stretch are to be invited by Greater Manchester Council in April, although the council does not necessarily expect the lighting greatly to reduce the accident rate.

The road is carrying far more traffic than had been expected, 65,000 vehicles in 16 hours on the last count, a quarter of

the stretch, occurred on their stretch of the M62 in the first 10 months of 1976. Many accidents took place on the two-mile Irwell valley stretch, which descends almost to sea level and is often shrouded in fog.

West Yorkshire Police, who are responsible for about 30 miles of the road, including the stretch of the M62 later this year. Contrary to fears expressed when the trans-Pennine motorway was opened four years ago, more accidents have occurred at this low level on the outskirts of Manchester than on the 1,000ft contours of West Yorkshire.

Greater Manchester police recorded 294 accidents in 1975, five of them fatal and 18 involving serious injury. Another 233, one involving serious in-

jury, occurred on their stretch of the M62 in the first 10 months of 1976. Many accidents took place on the two-mile Irwell valley stretch, which descends almost to sea level and is often shrouded in fog.

On the Irwell valley stretch heavy lorries tend to occupy both inner lanes. Car drivers

tend to select the outside lane to avoid congestion and many have to cross two lanes of slow-moving, nose-to-tail traffic to reach turning-off points.

Mr Donald Elliott, Greater Manchester's assistant chief constable for traffic and com-

Muddle delays change in compensation law

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Changes in the law on compensation for personal injury, damage to property or any other loss caused by defective products are to be proposed in reports from the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission, to be published soon. But government action will be delayed because of a muddle in the preparation of a European Community directive covering the same subject.

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, in a report prepared by Lord Diplock, Lord of Appeal and a member of the Lord Chancellor's law reform committee, point out that the directive clashes with the draft European convention on product liability, which is open for ratification by member states of the Council of Europe, and which would ensure a wider area for legal harmonization.

In particular, Lord Diplock's committee says the convention states that contributory negligence by the injured person or claimant (in the case of fatal injury) may give rise to a reduction or disallowance of the claim.

"Those two conventions, however, apply to damage caused by a single occasion, which makes it practicable within a reasonably short period to ascertain who are claimants and what the total amount of claims is likely to be."

But the fact that an injury has been caused by a defective article may not become apparent until long after articles having the same defect have been put on the market or even long after they have been consumed by the claimant or the claimant's parent, the committee says.

The period of uncertainty about the proportion of the amount recoverable by an individual claimant may be prolonged until the end of 10 years, the maximum period of claim written into the directive.

"On the face of it, this would appear to prohibit any disallowance or reduction of a claim on the ground of contributory negligence. In our opinion, if any directive is to be made, it is essential that it should deal expressly with the legal consequences of fault on the part of the injured person or the claimant which contributed to the damage that he has sustained."

In brief**Paraffin to cost more**

The maximum retail price of paraffin will rise by 3p a gallon from midnight tonight, pushing up the price to between 45p and 47p, depending on grade and area.

The oil companies are believed to have asked the Price Commission for an increase of 5p a gallon because of the higher cost of crude oil, caused mainly by the fall in the value of the pound.

Summons served on Princess

Mr Walter Stansfield, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, disclosed yesterday that a summons, alleging speeding on the M1, has been served on Princess Anne. She was stopped by a police car on November 27, and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, was with her.

The summons is returnable at Alfreton magistrates' court on January 21.

Helicopter patrol

Two long-range helicopters from the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose, Cornwall, are to join patrols off the south-west coast to watch for breaches of Britain's 200-mile fishing limit. The helicopter crews will be asked to confirm sightings by RAF aircraft and a naval frigate and take on-the-spot photographs.

The Prince of Wales

The Prince of Wales will return to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, next month for a refresher course on flying for the Jet Provost trainer. He was recently promoted to the rank of wing commander.

Lord Goodman

Peter Wilby interviews Lord Goodman, "the busiest man in England"; Maurice Wiles examines theology; and Dennis Welland reviews the new Oxford Book of American Verse, all in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Education accused of failure

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Madeley, Shropshire

The education system has failed to keep pace with changes in industry and society, and much of its philosophy and content are outmoded. Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood, the pottery company, told about two hundred leading educationists at the North of England Education Conference at Madeley College of Education, Shropshire, yesterday.

For many years, he said, Britain had not received value for money in education because schools were providing mediocre recruits to industry.

It was the first clash at an important education conference between industry and education since the Prime Minister called last October for closer links between the two. Sir Arthur, the first non-member of the Wedgwood family to run the family firm, was complimented on his courage in entering the lion's den, but was challenged on most of his points.

His most provocative suggestion was that the abolition of grammar schools was widening the gulf between industry and education and contributing to the decline in standards.

The executive says that more than in most unions, its members include many people from ethnic minorities from the West Indies, Africa and Asia, as well as from Europe.

Whatever their origins, it says, "they make vital contribution to the well-being of Britain through their work in the public services, and they are active and loyal members of the union".

It is no accident, it continues, that racist propaganda is growing at a time when the union is waging a campaign against public spending cuts to protect the jobs and earnings of its members.

In a letter to all local student unions yesterday Mr

the mediocre output of school-leavers. It ran counter to an earlier address from Mr Peter Browning, Chief Education Officer of Bedfordshire, who said the best hope for ending Britain's industrial difficulties lay in the development of comprehensive schools.

Sir Arthur called for teaching to be reorganized so that young people should be better prepared for work. He said industry should make itself more attractive to school-leavers and graduates and encourage employees to do further training.

Calling for better careers guidance, Sir Arthur argued that a spell in industry would equip teachers to become better counsellors in steering young people into their first jobs.

Sir Arthur advocated a return to formal teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic as the grounding best suited to alleviate Britain's difficulties in the industrial sector. He complained that many leavers were virtually unemployable because they were illiterate and innumerate. New recruits to his company had to be given expensive remedial education in mathematics and English.

Earlier, Mr Browning told the conference that Britain's greatest difficulties lie in the field of industrial relations. The best hope lies in the development of comprehensive schools, where the future workers and the managers would be educated together.

But he gave a warning that it might be 20 years before the process of comprehensive reorganization could work through properly.

Union to start campaign against racism

By Ronald Kershaw

The National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which has 650,000 members, is to launch a programme to counter what its executive sees as a "growing campaign of politically inspired racist propaganda from extreme right-wing groups outside the union."

The executive says that more than in most unions, its members include many people from ethnic minorities from the West Indies, Africa and Asia, as well as from Europe.

Whatever their origins, it says, "they make vital contribution to the well-being of Britain through their work in the public services, and they are active and loyal members of the union".

It is no accident, it continues, that racist propaganda is growing at a time when the union is waging a campaign against public spending cuts to protect the jobs and earnings of its members.

Call to ban "immigrant": A call to end the use of the word "immigrant" was made in London yesterday by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a conference organized by the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

In the next couple of years we are going to have to make up our minds to drop the word "immigrant", she said. There are black, brown, white and yellow Britons, and it is about time we recognized that fact. We are a rainbow country.

Education must be made more internationally responsive. That could be done in Britain by recognizing that this was a multinational and multiracial country, and using that to make education more alive.

Democracy was a great gamble on human nature's being in the end decent. The National Front has to be allowed to preach its poisonous doctrine while we have a democracy. All we can do is lay down the broad guidelines within which freedom of speech is acceptable", she added.

Students' union sells its insurance company

By Frances Gibb
Times Higher Education
Supplement

The National Union of Students has agreed in principle to sell its company, Endsleigh Insurances (Brokers) Ltd, to Gouda, the eighth largest insurance company in the Netherlands. Gouda will pay the NUS £300,000 in cash over three years and 1.5 per cent commission on all business arriving from the company.

That is likely to amount to £20,000 a year on the company's present performance. This year it made a record surplus of £100,000. The decision follows the collapse in November of the NUS's travel and printing companies, which went into liquidation with combined debts of about £300,000. That left the union without the funds necessary to maintain Endsleigh Insurance as a profitable enterprise.

In a letter to all local student unions yesterday Mr

Christopher Morgan, treasurer of the NUS, said: "We are concerned to ensure that when the sale is completed Endsleigh will be providing the best possible insurance brokerage service to NUS members."

In return for that assurance,

he said the NUS would agree to promote Endsleigh Insurance exclusively to its members.

Gouda Insurance is the company which Endsleigh put out most of its policies. It has agreed to maintain the company's management and staff at the present level of about two hundred, and the NUS will have two out of the six directors on its board.

Fees differentials: The National Union of Students has launched a campaign to try to persuade university authorities not to carry out proposed increases in tuition fees next September. Staff Reporter writes. Boycotts of lectures and occupations throughout the country are planned from the middle of next month.

Teacher cleared of assault on schoolboy

A jury of eight men and four women took only 10 minutes at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to acquit a teacher of an assault charge.

Wallace Edwin Cooper, aged 43, of Silverdale Road, Guiseley, near Leeds, was found not guilty of assaulting Gary Johnson, aged 12, of Finder Street, Leeds, occasioning him actual bodily harm.

Mr Harold Muscroft, the recorder, ordered that Mr Cooper's costs should be paid out of central funds.

Mr Cooper said that he slapped the boy four times across the shoulders because he was disruptive during an English lesson at Ryecroft Middle School. The boy had been a thorough nuisance, truculent and rude and had sworn at him and had refused to behave.

By Our Political Staff
Mr Bryan Gould, Labour MP for Southampton, Test, said in his constituency last night that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "must be joking when he says that our exports have never been more competitive".

He said figures given to him by the Treasury and the Department of Trade showed that British export prices were significantly less competitive now than in 1973.

Noting that in the first 11 months of 1976 the exchange value of the pound fell by 16 per cent while export prices for manufactures rose by 21 per cent, Mr Gould said: "We have a curious belief in this country that if we say something loudly, often, and in unison, it will be believed even though it is contradicted by all the facts."

We in the Gas and Electricity industries have always wanted our customers to enjoy the benefit of regular supplies.

So long as those supplies are paid for promptly.

Most people do pay their bills on time. But some find paying difficult because of genuine hardship.

We want to help and advise people as much as we can. So we have produced a Code of Practice which has been agreed with the Government.

The Code explains how we can help all customers who want to budget wisely for their bills.

There are pay-as-you-go schemes to suit many different needs.

It also explains how we can help to safeguard genuine hardship cases against disconnection.

We're particularly concerned to protect pensioners, breadwinners who are unemployed, and families who get Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, or who have children under five years of age.

Copies of the Code are now available at all Gas and Electricity Board showrooms.

As the Code points out, we have a duty to see that bills are settled promptly. This is in everyone's interest. But where customers

genuinely do need assistance, then within the Code, we will do everything we reasonably can to help.

Payment of
Domestic Electricity
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A Code of Practice

WEST EUROPE

Señor Carrillo will use new found freedom to campaign for the return of 'La Pasionaria'

From William Chislett

Madrid, Jan 6
The Spanish Communist Party is hoping that Señor Dolores Ibárruri, "La Pasionaria", 82, will be able to return to Spain next month for the first time in 37 years. Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party's secretary general, told *The Times*.

Señor Carrillo, who was released on bail from Carabanchel prison a week ago pending possible though unlikely trial for illegal association—and so allowed to live legally in Spain—is using his freedom to fight for Señor Ibárruri's return.

If she is refused permission to return, a national and international campaign could be launched to force her release.

He is writing a letter to the press about the matter. "It is only now that I have become politically important that this campaign has started", he said.

"If we begin like this we shall never have reconciliation but only a spirit of revenge which will make the goal of democracy and peaceful change impossible. If we take the responsibilities now on our sides, and those of the nationalists were to do the same, there would be over 300,000 executions, there would be another civil war and not reconciliation."

Señor Carrillo believes that reconciliation must be preceded by total amnesty, which include everyone imprisoned for crimes of violence committed for political reasons.

"If after this amnesty there is further terrorism then this is another matter", he said.

His own release from prison has to some extent solved the thorny problem of the legalisation of the Communist Party. He denied, however, that his arrest had been deliberately planned by the party and that the Government knew where he was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take my presence here seriously,"

prosecutor concerning republican atrocities.

Señor Carrillo read out a page or two. "Particulars which I said that the killings had been carried out between November 1 and November 7, 1936. He said: "I did not take up my position as head of public order until the night of the seventh". He then turned to pictures of documents and said: "Not one of them is signed by me."

He had been responsible only for the decision to transfer the prisoners from Madrid to Valencia after November 7. On the way, "forces which at that moment we could not determine stopped the convoy and killed the prisoners".

He is writing a letter to the press about the matter. "It is only now that I have become politically important that this campaign has started", he said.

"If we begin like this we shall never have reconciliation but only a spirit of revenge which will make the goal of democracy and peaceful change impossible. If we take the responsibilities now on our sides, and those of the national-

ists were to do the same, there would be over 300,000 executions, there would be another civil war and not reconciliation."

Señor Carrillo believes that reconciliation must be preceded by total amnesty, which include everyone imprisoned for crimes of violence committed for political reasons.

"If after this amnesty there is further terrorism then this is another matter", he said.

His own release from prison has to some extent solved the thorny problem of the legalisation of the Communist Party. He denied, however, that his arrest had been deliberately planned by the party and that the Government knew where he was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take my presence here seriously,"

Leading article, page 13

Herr Schmidt in Spain to offer advice

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 6
Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, arrived in Madrid today on an "unofficial" visit, after spending Christmas on the Costa del Sol. He is said to be bringing advice for both King Juan Carlos and Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister.

The Chancellor's first meeting was with Señor Felipe González, the secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, before his meeting with Señor Suárez.

Tomorrow morning Herr Schmidt is to call on the King at the Zarzuela Palace. That meeting had not figured on the original programme drawn up by the Spanish authorities.

The evening newspaper *Informaciones* quotes German sources as saying that Herr Schmidt, if asked, will advise the King and the Prime Minister that Spain should legalize all political parties including the Communists, that the

Jail break blow to Italian penal system

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Jan 6
Italy's overburdened and inadequate penal system suffered another blow with the escape last night of four inmates of Fossombrone Jail, near Pesaro.

Only yesterday the chief public prosecutor in the Supreme Court, Dr Ubaldo Bocca, reported that three-quarters of Italian crimes were unsolved and unpunished last year. Last night's incident, the second big jail break this year, seems to indicate that those who are imprisoned would have little difficulty in escaping.

Last year 359 prisoners escaped from Italian jails, an average of nearly one a day. The rate so far this year is more than three a day, after the mass escape of 13 prisoners from Treviso jail on Sunday night. All 13 are still at large.

The prison governor, who had repeatedly complained to the justice ministry that his jail, like most others, was hopelessly understaffed, said that all 220 inmates could have got out had they wanted to.

Escapes have been made easier by recent jail reforms which give prisoners greater freedom to receive visitors, and therefore also weapons and other escape aids, and to maintain contact with the outside world by telephone.

Setback for the Gaullists

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 6
M. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, the dynamic and controversial deputy of Lorraine, and former president of the Radical Socialist Party, was to-day reelected president of the Regional Council, the economic authority for the area, defeating M. Pierre Messmer, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, on the fourth ballot.

It was the first of a series of confrontations between the

parties of the Government majority. The clash between the Centrists and Independent Republicans on the one hand, and Gaullists on the other, took place in an area where the antagonism between them has always been very lively.

Both M. Messmer and M. Servan-Schreiber are national personalities in their respective parties, and the latter's victory today is bound to encourage the independent Republicans and Centrists.

Anger at light sentence in Lisbon

From Richard Wigg

Lisbon, Jan 6

Lawyers for the family of a Portuguese sculptor who died at the hands of the Pide, the political police of the Salazar regime, are to appeal against a Lisbon court-martial verdict which means a man involved in the crime will be freed from jail in 10 months' time.

José Dias Coelho, the sculptor, was a member of the then underground Communist Party when he was shot in a police ambush in a Lisbon street in December, 1961.

The court dismissed a murder charge against Antonio Domingues, a Pide agent who had 11 years' service when he was arrested soon after the 1974 revolution. It ruled that he had fired the fatal shot at the sculptor, but "without intent to kill and to prevent his escape".

It accordingly sentenced him to three years and six months

imprisonment. As he has been in custody since his arrest he will have only 10 months more to serve.

The verdict led to protests from the public gallery. It has heightened the controversy about how the military courts are conducting the Pide trials. In other court-martial verdicts this week five other Pide agents have been immediately released having served a single term behind bars awaiting trial than the mild sentences imposed upon them.

"We still hope the Supreme Military Tribunal, which will substitute for this sentence another which will be exemplary", Dr Fernando Soares, the Coelho family's lawyer said last night.

Members of the governing Socialist Party, as well as Communists and Social Democrats have expressed reservations about the Pide verdicts, but there is also a reluctance to put pressure on the courts. Prest

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OVERSEAS

Russia to withhold UN dues for Sinai force

From Peter Strafford

New York, Jan 6
The Russians have announced that they are refusing to pay a substantial part of their dues for the financing of the United Nations emergency force in Sinai. The surprise announcement, made in a Note last month to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, has aroused fears of a new diplomatic crisis over Middle East arrangements.

The Soviet refusal will not have any immediate effect on the force itself. It is seen in New York as being more of an attempt by the Russians to assert their presence in any Middle East moves at a moment when the Carter Administration is preparing to see what it can do.

The main point made in the Russian Note is that they had intended to do with the Second Sinai Disengagement Agreement, which was negotiated by Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, and signed on September 4, 1975. They describe the agreement as having circumvented the Geneva peace conference.

Because of this, they say, the Soviet Union cannot bear any financial responsibility for the implications of the agreement, including any additional expenses caused. It is therefore going to pay only half of the expenses for the period from October 1975 to October 1976.

It is still not quite clear what the implications will be, partly because of ambiguity in the wording of the Note. It says that the Russians will pay half of their contributions "amounting to \$6,048,985 (£3,552,340)". According to United Nations figures, the total Russian contribution should be \$16,500,000.

At a press conference today, Mr Oleg Troyansky, the new Soviet permanent representative, refused to clear up the matter. He made two points:

it was great mental stress for us". Two days before Christmas they learnt they were being released.

Mrs Tyler, who has a PhD in zoology from Cambridge University, and who was carrying out the first survey of Ethiopian birds for the Ethopian

Wild Life Society, added: "Thank God it is all over now."

Mr Tyler said the guerrillas had captured them because they wanted publicity for their cause, namely self-determination for the more than four million inhabitants of the Tigre province. It was wrongly suggested at first that the guerrillas suspected they were spies.

For most of their captivity the family lived under a tree in a wadi, a dry river bed, in the desert. "We slept out on the ground", Mrs Tyler said. "We had no cover. After six months we had some rain and then they provided us with a tent

it was only big enough for three of us, and my husband still slept outside."

They ate mostly tinned food, but the guerrillas brought them dates and occasionally sweets for the children. They even had access to a radio box had to be careful about their movements during the day as this would attract Ethopian aircraft looking for guerrillas.

Mr David Hunt, Conservative MP for Wirral, said he had asked the Foreign Office to hold an inquiry into the whole episode to see if all the steps taken had been the right ones.

"What has concerned me all along is the length of time the

family were kept in captivity. Eight months is a dreadful length of time, and nothing was done at all in the first three months. But I feel that as they have been released in good health, the approach of the Foreign Office in dealing with the guerrillas through the Sudanese Government had been justified."

He wanted to ask Mr Tyler if he had been warned of possible guerrilla activity in the area. Mr Jon Swain, reporter for *The Sunday Times* held the same camp in northern Eritrea with them, had the impression that they were aware of any danger.



Relaxed moment for the Tyler family under the tree that was their home in the Ethiopian rebels' desert camp. The photograph was taken by Mr Jon Swain of *The Sunday Times* who was held captive in the same camp.

Tylers slept under tree in the open

Continued from page 1

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Mr Richard has constructive talks with President of Mozambique

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Jan 6

The two men found guilty of extinction in the 1975 "kidnapping" of Mr Samuel Bronfman, the heir to liquor fortune, were jailed today in White Plains, New York.

Mr Mel Lynch, a fireman, was sentenced to a period of four to 12 years, while Mr Donald Byrne, a chauffeur, was jailed for a period between three and nine years.

In their trial last year, both men were found not guilty of kidnapping Mr Bronfman. They had told the court that the alleged kidnapping had been part of a plot organized by Mr Bronfman to extort money from his father, Mr Edgar Bronfman.

But they were found guilty of extorting \$2.3m (£1.55m) in ransom.

be transferred from the hands of the minority to "the legitimate people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)".

By finding these mechanisms we will then be able to eliminate the armed conflict which now exists in Zimbabwe", he added. "War is fed by blood and it destroys lives. We therefore say welcome to Great Britain. Together we hope to find a solution."

The Mozambican stage of Mr Richard's southern African tour was generally expected to be one of the most difficult. The country provides bases for the biggest of the nationalist guerrilla armies and permits the military wing of the Zambwa African National Union (Zanu) to make militant statements over the state radio.

However, Mr Richard apparently found the Mozambican leader in a brief address before the talks started at the tattered presidential palace this morning. President Machel said he thought it would be possible to find the mechanisms by which power could

be transferred from the hands of the minority to "the legitimate people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)".

By finding these mechanisms we will then be able to eliminate the armed conflict which now exists in Zimbabwe", he added. "War is fed by blood and it destroys lives. We therefore say welcome to Great Britain. Together we hope to find a solution."

British diplomats in Maputo have been encouraged by Mr Richard's talk this morning. "I think there can now be greater justification for optimism about the outcome of his mission", one said after his departure for Dar es Salaam this evening.

Much will now depend on Mr Richard's talks tomorrow with President Nyererere of Tanzania and then on the summit meeting of the "front line" states at the weekend. Apart from the leaders of the four African states (Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia), which Mr Richard is visiting during his tour, the meeting will also be attended by President Neto of Angola.

For some the alarm is suspect. The fact that known anti-hardliners, under the leadership of Professor Richard Pipes of Harvard, were brought in to "second guess" the professional intelligence assessors is causing an uproar.

An intelligence subcommittee, under Senator Adlai Stevenson, is to investigate whether the incoming President should use grain and technology sales and long-term loans as the lever to get Soviet compliance with the Helsinki agreements.

However, it is Senator Proxmire, long a scourge of Pagan spending, who has issued the challenge to the Joint Chiefs. As a member of the Defence appropriations subcommittee he has sent General George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, a questionnaire.

Mr Proxmire is particularly critical of confining the "outside stimulus" to the intelligence community, which he believes is needed to one ideological group.

He has asked General Brown whether he agrees with the thoughts of General George K. Liggett, formerly Chief of Air Force Intelligence, who says the Soviet Union already has superiority over the United States, and is working on weapons which are so exotic and dramatic that they are 20 years ahead of anything the United States has.

The answers to Mr Proxmire's questionnaire and the debate will influence the defence budget in which President-elect Carter is pledged to find savings this year of between \$5,000m and £3,000m and £7,000m.

Mr Proxmire's prescription of a tougher, yet cautious détente coincides with the fierce controversy over Soviet intentions and military capability. It is also reported here that the United States has been quietly retargeting some of its long range missiles to include big underground depots and industrial installations which the Soviet Government has been dispersing over the past six

years.

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OVERSEAS

Japanese will strengthen coastal defences to counter Carter pledge of withdrawal from Korea

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Jan 6.—The Japanese Government is drawing up contingency plans to strengthen its defence structure on the island's western coastal regions and on Kyushu Island, the closest point to South Korea, on the assumption that President-elect Carter will gradually withdraw American troops from the tense Korean peninsula during the next four years.

Mr. Kenzuke Yanagiya, a spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said yesterday that the Korean situation on the Korean peninsula remains conjectural, but Japan's defence agency has "a duty to plan for every contingency if the military balance in the Korean peninsula becomes unstable."

In the past, Japan's western coast, including Kyushu Island, was relegated to an unimportant role in defence planning. Instead, the infrastructure of the country's Self-Defence Forces has been concentrated in Hokkaido Island and other northern regions.

The plan to strengthen the south-western regions was mooted last month after the American President-elect announced that he expected to conduct a "gradual and slow" withdrawal of the remaining force of 38,000 American troops in South Korea.

Mr. Carter's pledge has greatly perturbed Tokyo and Seoul, where the authorities vehemently oppose the gradual reduc-

tion of America's military presence in South Korea as long as the communist regime in Pyongyang remains belligerent.

Both countries have embarked on a vigorous diplomatic campaign to dissuade Mr Carter and South Korea has now turned to Japan for support. Mr. Yanagiya said today that South Korea has called for a round of ministerial talks to discuss Mr. Carter's plans.

Reports from Seoul suggest that President Park hopes to form a "diplomatic front" with Japan to convince Washington that a further reduction of American troops in Korea will threaten the security of America's two allies.

However the Japanese Government suggested today that it did not believe the joint initiative would help convince the Carter Administration of the dangers of withdrawal.

"Japan realizes that the United States must eventually withdraw its forces from South Korea. We would like to see it happen under a gradual and methodical plan, when the situation is less dangerous. The South Koreans have their own argument."

"Although Japan is a third party, we are very much concerned... We will put our case to Washington, but I do not think that joint action might be an appropriate measure. However, we will not refuse to discuss the matter with South Korea at ministerial talks," Mr. Yanagiya added.

Mr. Fumihiko Togo, the

Israel media reject blame for Ofer suicide

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Jan 6.—Leading Israeli newspapers today accused the Government of trying to make the media a scapegoat in the suicide of Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing. Mr. Ofer shot himself this week while police were investigating accusations of financial irregularities involving a building company he headed before he became a minister.

Government officials argue that Mr. Carter is attempting to renege on the "Korea clause" ratified in 1969 during talks between Mr. Eisaku Sato and President Nixon. The clause, inserted into a joint communiqué, stated that "the security of the Republic of Korea is essential to Japan's own security".

As Japan announced the shift in its defence policy this morning, letters to leading newspapers denounced the Government's posture.

The poster also accused Chiang Kai-shek and her accomplices in the so-called "gang of four" of inciting the riots on April 5 which were used as the pretext for Mr. Teng's dismissal, according to a Reuter report from Peking. Throughout the summer the Chinese press had blamed Mr. Teng for the riots.

Observers in Hongkong believe this to be a clear sign that Mr. Teng—who has re-

cently been seen in public again—will soon be given a senior position in the leadership. He kept his party membership despite losing his other posts. It is thought possible that he may be given the job of purging and rebuilding the demoralized Communist Party.

The People's Liberation Army has officially assumed control of the most important railway junction in China at Changchow, in Honan province on the Yellow River. This junction controls the intersection of the principal east-west and north-south railways, without which the country would grind to a halt.

The press called for a continuation of the investigation to reveal the full truth. An authorized source at police headquarters in Jerusalem said a decision would be taken probably next week.

Mr. Rabin, the Prime Minister, said in a funeral oration yesterday that he personally accepted Mr. Ofer's protestation of innocence. He added that the tragedy should shock people into realizing the dangers of prejudicing persons in the written or spoken word. The newspaper Haaretz said this was a transparent attempt to blame the media for the tragedy.

This time the grand plan requires an American military strength as the means to an objective which seemed profitable to Tokyo against Mr. Carter's wishes. The tragic history of antagonism between the two peoples was caused by the egocentric greed of the Japanese.

What Japanese officials are saying is: the Korean peninsula must be kept divided. The American troops should remain there indefinitely to enforce this division because Japanese profits require it.

Another paper, Marri, protested that when corruption, embezzlement or bribery came to light the press was blamed for failing in its duty as watchdog of the administration. But when the media fought corruption it was accused of character assassination, a witch-hunt and adjudicating in headlines.

public in stages by the Canadian Public Archives.

In their conversation, he and Mr. Churchill talked about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and about a life after death, according to an entry by Mr. King on May 22, 1946.

The most recent issue banned was on November 6 when the newspaper reported a press briefing on the September rioting in the North-West Frontier area of Pakistan in which government spokesmen said 62 people had died in protests against government reforms.

Mr. King's personal diary recounts an unusual after-dinner conversation with Mr. Churchill on a visit Mr. King made to London less than a year after the end of the war.

Mr. King died in 1950. His voluminous diary is being made

why he had done this and that he would reply he had seen the terrors of war... that there were thousands of lives—fine American soldiers—all of which would likely be destroyed or tortured."

Mr. King wrote that Mr. Churchill had feared the war would drag on and civilization would break down. "He had to decide what he would have to account to God as he had to his own conscience for the decision."

"That God would ask him

to civilian mismanagement of among them, and between them and the Politburo in Peking, which has been dominated by the military since the October coup.

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SPORT

Football

Best affair erupts as Hardaker accuses Fulham of arrogance

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Fulham have been accused by the Football League's secretary, Alan Hardaker, of being arrogant over the transfer of Best, leading to Fulham's refusal to give an undertaking that Best would complete the current season before returning to the United States. Mr Hardaker's letter suggests that Best was "dumped" back in the League for the winter.

Previous exchanges between the League and Fulham have been comparatively formal and Mr Hardaker's latest letter to the club's secretary, Gordon Porter, is openly angry and personal. It concludes by saying that: "Any hold up in the final registration of Best is not particularly caused by your behaviour, but rather by the arrogant attitude adopted by your club."

Mr Hardaker said: "I am surprised that such an experienced secretary as yourself has not been able to understand the regulations of the Football League correctly. For your guidance, I would refer you to regulations 15 and 13(b). The second regulation is an all-embracing one which allows a League Management Committee to "act as they may think fit" with full and associate members, officials or players in respect of any offences or complaints and with matters not otherwise specifically provided for in the regulations. Rule 15 concerns illegal inducements to a player of another club who is not on the transfer list. It precludes the use of an agent in the management of transfers and so on."

The letter continues: "When you visited my office with your then chairman, Mr Tommy Trinder, we were given a categorical assurance that there was no secret agreement for Best's return to America before the completion of the football season, and it was explained why Best had been dumped temporarily in the Football League during the winter."

"This was not the first case of this kind and the Management Committee have no alternative but to insist that any player returning from America, unless there has been a bona fide transfer, must sign for at least 12 months, and not return to the United States." If there is such an agreement, it is to affect Best's transfer was not dealt with through an agent. He says the committee received an "evasive expression" by a League member, former Committee member Len Shipman, who said: "What do you mean by 15 and 13(b)?"

Mr Hardaker's interpretation of Best's return to England as a case of being dumped by the League is not disputed.

Now the escalating dispute between Fulham and the League could

assure Best's future lies permanently overseas.

Derby confirm Murphy in post as manager

Derby County appointed 33-year-old Colin Murphy yesterday as their new manager, the position he has filled as caretaker since the dismissal of David Mackay six weeks ago. Derby directors had promised Murphy a fair trial in the post and after a four-hour board meeting yesterday they announced that he had won their confidence with six points from the 10 league games played since he took charge.

Murphy was the reserve-team coach under Mackay, has no previous managerial experience in the league. He was for some time in charge of Basildon.

Tony Kirby, director, Stuart Webb, issued a statement during a break in the board meeting. It read: "Colin Murphy has been appointed team manager of the club and this position is regardless of whether Bill Shanks accepts a constructive appointment with the club."

Mr Webb could not say whether

Murphy had been given a contract or whether Derby expected an early decision on their offer to Shanks.

Letter helps Morgan escape ban

William Morgan, Bolton Wanderers' Scottish international, has been dropped by Queen's Park Rangers last week for the match at Derby, which was postponed, included in the side for the home FA Cup third round match tomorrow against Shrewsbury Town. He comes back as Shanks is out of action with a broken shoulder received in training.

Paul Williams, the 16-year-old son of the former Wolverhampton and England goalkeeper Bert Williams, has been signed by Derby County. Williams, also a Scotland international, has impressed in several trial matches.

Today's fixtures

THIRD DIVISION: Northampton Town v Tranmere Rovers (7.30); FOURTH DIVISION: Stockport County v Worthington (7.30).

Table tennis

England achieve double team triumph

England swept to a magnificent double over the Soviet Union in the team finals of the England open table tennis championships, sponsored by Nuffield Union, at Thorne last night.

Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas scored an overwhelming 3-0 win while Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard dropped only the doubles in winning 3-1. It was the first England team double in 12 years and the best British event. The success of the women was unexpected, but the easy victory by Neale and Douglas came as a complete surprise.

Yesterday's results in team championship

Men: Group A: Soviet Union beat Wales, 21-16; S. Gomzhevsk, best. 21-15. England 1 beat Denmark, 21-16; 21-15; 21-15. England 2 beat Canada, 21-12; 21-13; 21-15. England 3 beat Griffiths and Davis, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 4 beat Canada, 21-12; 21-15; 21-15. England 5 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. Walker and Day lost to Poland and Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 6 beat Canada, 21-12; 21-15; 21-15. England 7 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 8 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 9 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 10 beat Griffiths and Davis, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. Pottose lost to Poland, 21-15; 21-15. England 11 beat Poland and Griffiths, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 12 beat Canada, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 13 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 14 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 15 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 16 beat Griffiths and Davis, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 17 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 18 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 19 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 20 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 21 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 22 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 23 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 24 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 25 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 26 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 27 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 28 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 29 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 30 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 31 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 32 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 33 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 34 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 35 beat Denmark, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 36 beat Wales, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 37 beat Poland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. England 38 beat Scotland, 21-15; 21-15; 21-15. 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When some of the best moments are also the worst

Clare Francis has had her fill of singlehanded sailing. A hot bath and human fellowship were the sum of her ambitions when she reached Newport, Rhode Island on July 4 last year after 29 days alone at sea. She was the first of the four girls in the *Observer Royal Western Singlehanded Transatlantic Race* to finish, came in 7,000 guineas out of 100,000 plus over a year ago, being rewarded with a £2,000 prize.

The reviving powers of hot baths being what they are, and Clare Francis being the lady she is, her head is now full of plans to take part in the Round the World Race starting from Portsmouth on August 27. But before she gets down to all that there is her book about the solo crossing *Come Hell or High Water* launched yesterday, and 10 days of personal appearances at the Boat Show with Robertson's Golly, the boat she did it in.

In the book, which she wrote in just five weeks, she gives a breezy behind the scenes glimpse of the painstaking preparation required for a long passage, the terrors of sponsorship, the terrors and joys of singlehanded sailing and, above all, of the total tiredness of not having more than two hours sleep at a time for nearly a month. Her stores list makes fascinating reading—no men and all that fruit. The minutiae of the voyage, her lost hairbrush, bruised arms and paper panties are engagingly frank, but tell little of why or how she does these things.

Two qualities are striking when you meet Clare Francis: her reserve, and her professionalism. Newspaper and television stories invariably refer, as if surprised, to her height, five feet two, and her weight, seven stone. She is, as she says, stronger than she looks, "most people do expect me to be bigger, and they expect me to be compensating for something I'm not doing in my life."

In the book, she talks almost wistfully, of the camaderie of competitors before and after big races, as if though she looks forward to the parties and looks back on them with pleasure, being there is not best. Of course, arriving safe and sound, it is marvellous, and doing well in a race is very satisfying. But some of the best moments are also worse. If I have been up all night, charging sails or mending a plenty of broken gear, I will feel so exhausted that I just sit slumped in a heap in wet clothes and wet socks. Sometimes I will sit like that for ages—cold, wet, and sailing off for a year to see the world. The project went on from talk to action, until in the end, I was the only one acting and the only one going." She sailed the Atlantic single-handed for a bet and that was how Clare Francis, serious sailor, made her first headlines. Now she is heavily involved in the whirl of personality appearances she must make to capitalize on her achievements so far, and lay the foundations for future projects. For the Round the World Race she will need a bigger boat, sponsors, and a crew. The first person Clare Francis wants in that crew is her long-standing friend, and fellow yachtsman Jacques Redon.

"I was asked to record my thoughts and feelings throughout the crossing. Of course it was a bit odd talking to a camera on my own at sea. That did take getting used to. But it was also difficult for me to



Photograph by David Jones

filming to hang on to the mountain, fight the giant octopus, or whatever. Clare Francis did better. Armed with cameras and sound equipment by the BBC's *World About Us* team, and a long list of instructions, she continued shooting through exhaustion, exasperation, and appalling weather. It is this kind of determination to meet the expectations of her supporters and sponsors that is typical of her professionalism. But the self-revelation involved still goes against the grain, despite, or perhaps because of, the publicity her successes have earned.

Here is the "seeing a thing through" kind of courage. Talking of her years at the Royal Ballet School her body language when she describes what it felt like to know that almost everyone there was a better dancer than herself. She stuck it out through "A" levels and went on to get an economics degree at University College, London. Then, as an apparently settled young business woman in marketing, she suddenly changed tack. "A group of us had talked of buying a boat

Shona Crawford Poole
Come Hell or High Water, Pelham Books, £4.25.

Looking for Florence's lost Leonardo



The Battle of Anghiari:
A copy by Rubens of a preliminary study
by Leonardo

By Prof Henry Travers Newton Jr., of California University's art conservation laboratory. He formed a team with Prof John Asmus, a research physicist who specializes in the application of advanced technology to art problems. Dr Maurizio Seracini, a young Florentine studying the application of these techniques to medicine and Prof Carlo Pedretti, an art historian and leading expert on Leonardo. All three are also from California University.

The team, financed by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington and the Samuel Kress Foundation of New York, are conducting their search with methods which would have been

in density between a hidden mural and the material on top of it should show up.

The survey is necessary because there is no precise indication of where, in the huge hall, Leonardo's painting was. It is only known that it measured roughly five metres by seven, because records mention an order of 25 metres of wood to frame it, and that the figures were one and a half times life size.

Once the survey is completed the team may decide to go on to more detailed and costly scanning with a variety of techniques. One is infra-red sensing, which picks up the tiniest variations in temperature on the surface of the wall. Air insulates, so a tiny layer of air between the presumed Leonardo and the outer wall would make the surface fractionally warmer to that particular spot.

Another possibility is x-rays which would also show up different densities inside the wall, or heavy metals such as the lead which Leonardo used in his white paint. A third possibility is a branch of nuclear science called neutron activation analysis which would detect the presence of elements not contained

in the wall, such as minerals used in pigments.

The team however is being realistic about its chances of success. Prof Pedretti has warned against excessive illusions about finding the Leonardo intact. Prof Asmus expects perhaps a few traces or fragments. In any case by the time their work is finished next autumn they should know for certain whether in fact the mural was destroyed or not.

Even if it was, the search will have been a valuable experience in the use of advanced techniques in art and Italian conservationists are watching their work very closely.

If something of interest is found, the Florence authorities will have to decide whether to remove part or all the Vasari mural on top, take down the Leonardo and put the other back. Experience in the city after the disastrous flood 10 years ago has shown that Italian art conservationists are able to remove and replace frescoes without damaging them or anyone knowing the difference afterwards.

Patricia Clough

Appointments Vacant also on pages 10 and 11

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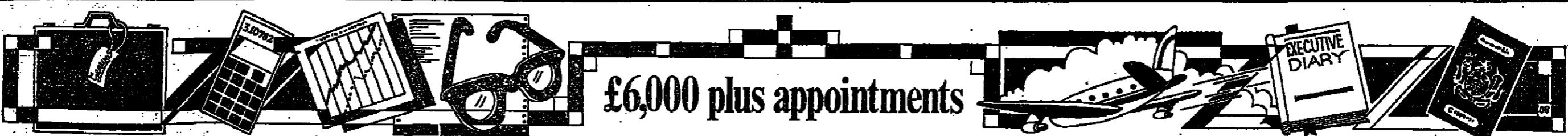
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LABOUR'S INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

Tribune

**Forty years on,
the mongrel
still barking at
Labour's left**

Tribune is 40 today. Luckily the very independent weekly of the Labour left, which has outlived almost all other magazines that have been launched in this country committed to propagating democratic socialism, shows no signs of growing up and becoming middle-aged. It is still youthful, exuberant, incorrigibly opinionated and quarrelsome, and unashamedly convinced of its correctness where other less visionary magazines have had their ardent idealism damped by journalistic artefacts, or falling circulations, or the harsh compromises of practical politics. The character of *Tribune* is that of an untidy mongrel crossed between a gadding, a watchdog, and a bell-wether, trying to buzz, butt, and bark the Labour Party down the left-hand lane to socialism.

Tribune was born in January, 1937, at a time of economic crisis and unemployment, having been conceived in the previous year after the disastrous Labour Party Conference of 1935. Stafford Cripps, Aneurin Bevan, Harold Laski, Ellen Wilkinson, and George Strauss, aided and abetted by Collance and John Strachey, planned a new weekly that would be a mouthpiece and megaphone of the militant Labour left. Its first statement of policy declared that it stood for changing the world system that was no longer compatible with either democracy or peace: "We must change it swiftly, for if we wait, the initiative will be in the hands of those to whom neither democracy nor peace is an idea charged with meaning. The world system that is destroying hope in the world is capitalism."

Democratically marching on

Forty years on, undaunted by the unconscionable longevity of capitalism and some disappointments of socialism, *Tribune* marches on, bloody-minded, but unbowed and essentially democratic. The magazine, which prefers to call itself a paper, still defines its role as: "to attack the ills that afflict our society; to attack the forces that create and maintain those ills; to dissent from orthodox discredited measures that seek to alleviate rather than cure; to fight for what it believes to be the true answers to humanity's problems, answers that lie in the bedrock of democracy and socialism. Its vocabulary has always been belligerent. The editors and columnists of *Tribune* form a noble army of martyrs and warriors of the left, from Nye Bevan and Jessie Lee to Raymond Postgate, Michael Foot, and George Orwell, who was literary editor and one of many distinguished literary contributors. Its bardic honours constitute a roll-call of

Philip Howard

"Please, nothing too ostentatious," she protested.

"Even diamonds can be discreet," I smiled, handing her the small, leather-bound box.

She opened it. Inside, the watch gleamed softly. A tiny masterpiece of the art of Audemars Piguet.

A simple shape in pure white gold, adorned only with diamonds.

Diamonds framed the face. Were actually set into the minuscule hands.

As she reached out to pick up the watch, they reflected and refracted laser-like points of light.

She slipped it onto her wrist and fastened the delicately woven strap.

"I'll never be late again," she said, her eyes sparkling like the diamonds themselves.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 72 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.



If you are attracted by the thought of escaping winter gloom, economic ills and inflation on a world cruise aboard a luxury liner, I am sorry to say you have missed the boat. The P & O flagship *Canberra* sailed from Southampton on Wednesday night, for the only world cruise leaving a British port this year. Robin Young was there to see her off:

Photographers were clamouring for passengers to celebrate their departure with popping corks and brimming champagne glasses. The passengers, many of them veterans of several such trips, and many cruises, were more interested in showing the stewards how to find the right cabins. "I swear this one's never been on the boat before," grunted a Lancashire woman shoving briskly at a little brown man struggling with her three large cases. "I know the layout of the ship far better than he does."

There was, anyway, not a lot of champagne to spare for jollification before the ship left port. Only 3,000 bottles had been taken on board to last the voyage, rather less than a sip a day for the 1,200 passengers who would be taking the 86-day trip round the world.

Other standard fare of high living spendthrifts was in even more scarce supply. A spokesman for P & O described the gold and cash onboard as insignificant. "These are not the sort of people who can stomach a lot of wine and rich foods," he explained.

The most eagerly awaited passengers were Mr and Mrs Evans from Jersey who were paying £7,171 each for cabin C69. This was to be the Evans's eighth world cruise, and a bevy of reporters waited outside their cabin door.

When Evans arrived, though, he had little time to talk to

The Times Diary

Pushing the boat out for 1977

reporters, and what he did have to say bore a hint of bad news for P & O. "I booked the top cabin for this trip before leaving for the last trip," he said, "but so far I have not booked again. Perhaps I will, but there is just a niggling doubt in my mind that we may not really be getting value for money."

"It is costing us about £15,000, but there are people down below who are getting the same room facilities and the same food for just over £1,000, and they tend to grab all the best seats at the cabaret, you know."

In the bottom of the ship, the cheapest four berth cabins costing £1,187 per person, introductions and grandmotherly reunions were going on. Gwen Williams, from Cheshire, and Iris Davies, from Cardiff, were on the *Canberra*'s 1975 cruise, and had booked to share their neighbour, Ena Stevenson, a retired headmistress, had been on the 1975 cruise, too.

"Of course there are lots of familiar faces," said one of the ladies. "You get to know everybody down here where we have to rub along pretty close to each other, but it's all we can afford. Cruising is very addictive, so we come back again and again."

Len Stuckey, the advertising and promotions manager for P & O Cruises, estimated that some 10 per cent of the passengers would have been on world cruises before.

Cruising is almost exclusively a pensioners' pleasure. All the

passengers I met were elderly, and five were confined to wheelchairs, but I was told that there were four children under 12 on the passenger list. They have a hostess and a parental playroom all to themselves, as well as the prospect of a "Cokerail" with the captain which will obviously be the most exclusive social event of the voyage.

Nico Gardner, a former bridge champion and tutor of the game for this cruise as he has been for 82 cruises before, told me: "The big sports on board are art, bridge and ballroom dancing. There are swimming pools of cold and warm water, and deck tennis."

The passengers will be making shore excursions from their 21 ports of call. Almost a third are taking a trip into Communist China from Hongkong (£102), and smaller groups will be flying to Japan, Thailand via Bangkok, to Singapore at greater expense.

"Some of the crew, though, told me they would not go ashore at all. 'We've seen it all before,'" said a barman, "and with the pound like it is at the moment you can't go anywhere on my £3 a week."

More boats

Those who have missed P & O's boat can always get one of their own, and many with just their mid went to the first day of the Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday. For the price

of the top suite on the *Canberra* you could buy quite a decent little vessel, though not perhaps one that would go round the world.

Boat builders are coy about displaying prices, but they seemed to range from £30,000 for the most elaborate yachts, to little more than £1,000 for smaller vessels with cosy names like "Dunfittin". Serious buyers were busy measuring the seats to see whether their families would fit, and asking innumerable technical questions. They were younger than the world cruisers, but just as rich.

The centrepiece of the show is what purports to be a mock-up, at least a symbolic one, of Brighton Marina, that controversial project which, after years of local squabbling, expects to receive its first boats this year. Around a small pond in the centre hall are a group of Regency-style stands which are not quite sure what is actually going to be built alongside the marina, but which are supposed to give the impression of Regency Brighton.

If the impression is accurate, then the town consists largely of banks, marine finance houses and places that sell Guinness.

The marina people gave a champagne party by the pond, with "famous" reporters sniffing around and asking a brand of probing questions. On a stage projecting into the water, a slickly produced fashion show got under way, displaying rainbow, sports clothes, bathing suits and drum majorette costumes in shiny red, blue and silver.

The fashion show was followed by a display by the Royal Marines which I had already seen during the summer at Brockwell Park. Like and then there was some comedy silver Jubilee bus was the idea vehicle in question was not one

of theirs. London's silver bus will not be launched until Easter. Yesterday's belonged to the National Bus Company and will ply in and around East Grinstead, in district Sussex.

I. H. Nunneley, managing director of British Transport Advertising, who handle advertising for National, was chortling at the march he had stolen over London Transport. So Lord Ponsonby, chairman of Greater London Council, took in good part, saying he was "proud and happy" to perform the official launching ceremony.

Although it was advertised as a champagne launching, the bottle Ponsonby smashed over the bus's hub cap was a cheap sparkling wine. This economy backfired cruelly when one of the bottles exploded in the face of a representative of the electrical company sponsoring the bus, injuring him quite badly.

The young women were in attendance dressed in clothe

which were hardly distinguishable from clothes of today. They did not remember women in 1952 leaving so many front buttons unfastened. A plan for them to slip into silver bikinis en route was abandoned because of the weather.

Lambeth Council take the pessimistic view. One of their press announcements states: "Whilst the recent Viking space probe to Mars did not find any intelligent monsters it was also established that some form of life was possible on the Red Planet. But is there intelligent life anywhere else in our universe? Go to West Norwood before 31 January and you may get an answer."

"I went to West Norwood once, and I do not hold out much hope."

PHS

Lord Caradon on Palestine's case for a state on the West Bank of Jordan

Why the Palestinians see the Holy City as a gateway to peace

They long for a homeland in which they take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect

Of all the crowded impressions from weeks of discussions in the Middle East one main conclusion is clearest of all. The Palestinians want a state of their own on the West Bank of Jordan. They long for a homeland in which they take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect by practical constructive endeavour.

On this there is surprising unanimity—I say surprising because in the past there have been so many disputes and divisions in the Arab world. But now, and this is in striking contrast to a year ago when I last toured in the Middle East—I found among the Palestinians no dissenting voice.

The new state should be established on the territories to be recovered from the Israeli occupation on the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem. This, as I say, is now the firm and clear claim of the greatest importance arising from the aim of an independent Palestine state.

It is the concept gains ground that there should be twin cities, an Arab Jerusalem and an Israeli Jerusalem—I trust with no barriers between them—with a new relationship, of equality and mutual respect and cooperative understanding.

The sole concession is that the Holy City should become not a barrier but a gateway to peace.

There is a second factor of

take that decision save the Palestinians themselves."

When I saw the King in Amman he fully confirmed the magnanimous attitude he had

had towards the Palestinians know very well they need Jordan's continuing generous assistance.

They are assured that they will

get it.

Moreover, international backing for the object of a Palestine state is overwhelming. Nine members of the European Community have declared that an end of Israel's territorial occupation following the 1967 war is an essential element in a settlement, and recently nearly a hundred nations in the United Nations General Assembly have supported the call for an independent Palestine state.

What of the attitude of the Israelis? As usual, I was

curiously received in the Israeli Foreign Ministry but I

certainly did not expect any

new statement of policy. I have

been understood, and resented,

the Israeli attitude that they

will give nothing away until

what they are to get in terms

of recognition and security.

But the importance of the

new Palestinian purpose is, I

am sure, not lost on the Israeli Government. They have become

determined supporters of the

Security Council

Resolution 242, and the Palestini-

ans are fully in conformity with the two basic principles of that resolution,

"the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war" and

the right of every state in the

region to "live in peace within

secure and recognized bounda-

ries free from threats and acts

of force."

Moreover I met again some

of the brave and outspoken

Israelis who have been openly

advocating the necessity of

understanding and agreement

with the Palestinians, and they

tell me that their ideas make

good progress in Israeli public

opinion. It was agreed to

call again with Teddy Kollek,

the indefatigable Mayor of

Jerusalem, who takes special

pain in working for better rela-

tions with the Arabs.

It is no longer looked upon

as a wild-eyed conception

that the security of Israel

and the peace of the whole

Middle East must depend not

only on arms or on territory or

on the domination of one side over

the other but on agreement

and on peaceful coexistence

with Palestinians too having

a right to self-determination and

security in their own homeland.

I like to quote what Abba

Eban, then Foreign Secretary

of Security Council in 1973: "The

ultimate guarantee in a peace agreement lies in the creation of common regional interests in such degree of intensity, in such multiplicity of interaction, in such entanglement of reciprocal advantage, in such accessibility of human contact, as to put the possibility of future war beyond national con-

sciousness."

The immediate obstacle is the question of how the Palestinians should be represented at the Geneva Conference.

There are half a dozen ways

of getting over this procedural difficulty, several of them under discussion now, but it is in-

creasingly recognized that to have a Middle East conference and to exclude the Palestinians would be the height of arrogant absurdity. Moreover Khaled

Fahim of the PLO in Damascus followed by the Geneva Conference.

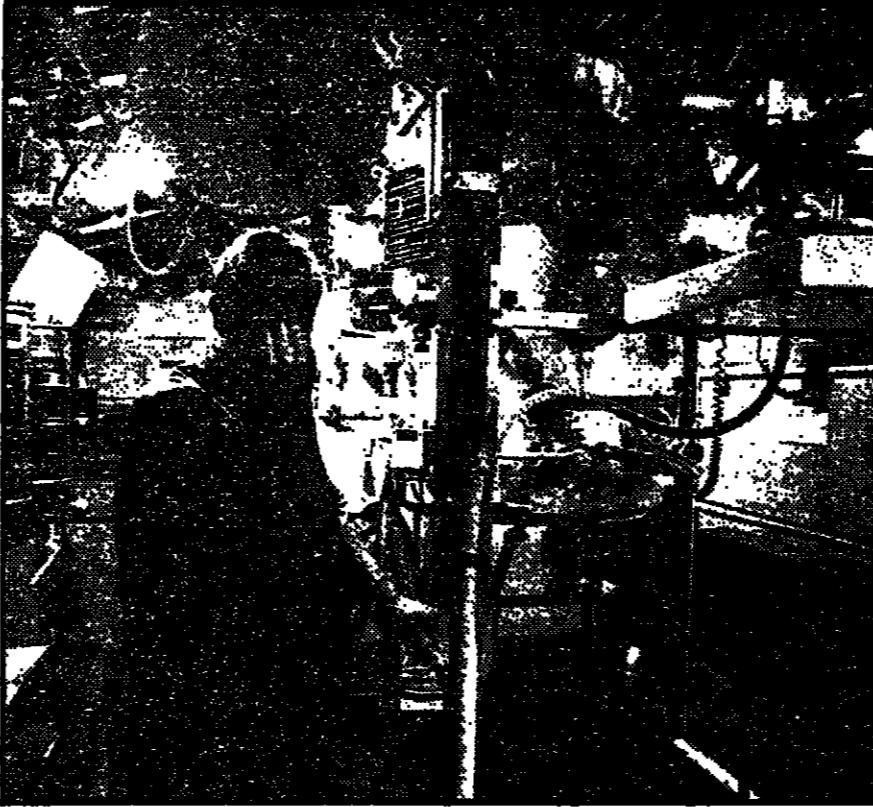
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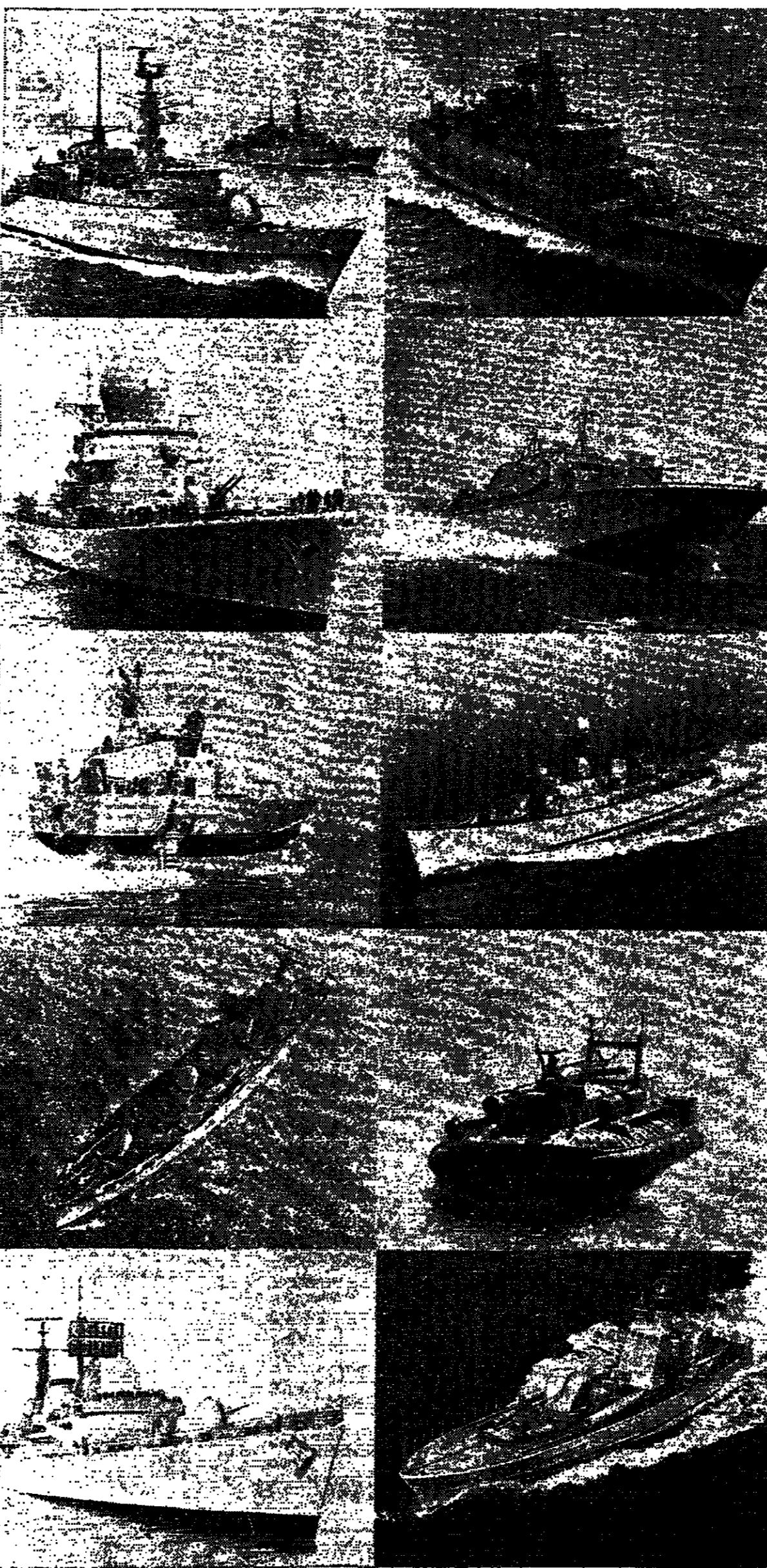
Royal Navy

a Special Report on Britain's senior Service examining striking power, missiles, air capability and morale



The nuclear submarine Sovereign provides for the maximum comfort of a crew of 120 operating to a high standard. Senior ratings have their own wardroom and crew members off watch catch up on sleep in the 50-berth cabins or eat from a varied menu. Half the crew is on duty at any one time.

ROLLS-ROYCE. A FIGHTING FORCE AT SEA.



Thin blue line contracts but is still flexible

by Henry Stanhope

At the start of 1977 the Royal Navy is still the largest and most ubiquitous navy in Western Europe. It is a long way behind the navies of the United States and the Soviet Union, and, in manpower, is substantially smaller than the Chinese Navy, too. But it is still an important influence on maritime affairs. Seventy fleets of varying aspirations still send their ships and sailors to these offshore islands to be trained according to a tradition which began with Alfred the Great.

Its fleet is still balanced, with 31 submarines (four Polaris, nine hunter/killers and 18 diesel-electric), about 65 frigates/destroyers and five larger warships including one aircraft-carrier, the Ark Royal, which will soon begin its last voyage, to the breaker's yard. But even the Fleet Air Arm will retain its interest in fixed-wing air power when the Sea Harrier joins first HMS Hermes, then the three new Invincible-class anti-submarine cruisers at the end of the decade.

The Navy had, at the last count 64,660 men and nearly 4,000 women. A shortage of experienced leading ratings and certain categories of officers, notably engineers, and aircrafter, testify to recruiting problems which have persisted on and off since the days of the press gang. However, the percentage of the recruiting offices is entirely unconnected with high civilian unemployment rates in Britain suggests that these horizons should be repaired in a few years time. Three out of every four ratings begin their careers as junior sailors at the shore-based training establishment HMS Raleigh.

Morale is surprisingly high—surprising if only because defence cuts—narrowly the Defence Review in 1975 which diminished naval manpower by 5,000. Surprising also perhaps, because it is Navy whose horizons have been steadily shrinking since the heady days of Empire, it is not so long ago that the thin blue line wound round the Far and Middle East, and ships cruised round the West Indies like ameekers patrolling their rounds. Now only a handful of patrol boats at Hongkong and a frigate at Gibraltar remain. For most sailors, for most of the time, the world has become the eastern Atlantic.

On the other hand, the impression of the sailor's world has been only relative. Two task groups a year usually steam away to warmer waters—ideally one to the Indian Ocean and the Far East, another to the West Indies. Uncertainties in climate demand the presence of a frigate at most times in

Central American waters. Porpoise class and then the Oberon class find an outlet for their global pretensions in the Mediterranean from time to time. The Royal Navy is too small. It is certainly smaller than the Sea Lords would like, given their not inconsiderable commitments. For instance the number of anti-submarine task groups that the Royal Navy can now find for patrolling the sea lanes in the eastern Atlantic is limited to three—two at sea at any one time while the third is in port refitting or taking on supplies. Ideally there should be one more to provide a better guarantee that up to 400 million tons of ammunition could be shifted over the Atlantic for troops in Europe in the event of war.

The United States Navy could supervise the transit of supplies as far as the Western Approaches. But it would be up to the Royal Navy and its Western European allies, with their mine counter measures ships and smaller diesel-electric submarines which would have to clear the way for the supply ships through the shallow waters of the Channel. The United States Navy is simply not equipped for that kind of shallow-water work.

The Royal Navy believes that morale depends to a large extent upon the quantity and quality of the ships that are procured. At present there are three of the new Type-22 frigates on order along with nine Type-42 Sheffield-class destroyers and all the Type-23 Asteroid-class frigates. But the Navy needs to build at the rate of 2.7 frigates/destroyers a year to maintain its force at the desired level.

The order rate slowed down as a result of the 1974-75 Defence Review, and although it has since picked up again it is still some way behind the desired annual 2.7. Meanwhile the programme for building nuclear-powered attack submarines at the rate of one every 15 to 18 months is continuing and the Royal Navy is aiming at 16 of them eventually in service.

One restriction on building ships is the availability of cash and another is shipbuilding capacity. Building warships is a highly specialized business and naval policy has been to concentrate on a few yards which can then be encouraged to build up this special knowledge. Even so it is difficult to keep a yard's labour force occupied by an even flow of work. What the Royal Navy would like to do is to give a shipbuilder a batch of orders to keep him occupied over a period of years, which would mean continuity in his workforce and more economy all round.

One of the most important decisions during the next few years concerns the procurement of a new class of conventional diesel-electric submarines, to replace first the

Rolls-Royce are the undisputed world leaders in marine gas turbine technology.

As the pioneers in this field, they are already powering or have been chosen to power gas turbine ships with 22 of the world's navies.

Engines like the Olympus and the Tyne—tough, compact, well proved, and together forming the unique COGOG configuration that offers these outstanding technical advantages:

Lower initial capital cost.

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Heavy duty Olympus power turbine with no torque limitations.

Conservative operating temperatures.

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Every Olympus-Tyne engine combination is backed by the unrivalled Rolls-Royce tradition of reliability and resources, with a worldwide product support second to none, continuing for as long as the engines are in service.

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by Henry Stanhope

Britannia no longer rules the waves, not even some of them; she can only help to ensure that nobody else does either. The Royal Navy still provides 70 per cent of Nato forces in the eastern Atlantic, which stretches from the east coast of Greenland to the pitted western shores of Norway. In recognition of this, the only important Nato command to be held by a non-American is the Allied Command Channel, which belongs to Britain's Commander-in-Chief Fleet in his underground bunker at Northwood, Middlesex, more than a telescope's range from the sea.

At any one time the White Ensign still flutters from 40 warships of frigate size and above, 20 submarines and 50 smaller craft in the region, together with their supply ships from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Yet only 60 per cent of the world's maritime trade crossing the North Atlantic and more than 120 ships discharging three million tons of cargo daily imports allows the Russian grille to target of 16, belong to the same league—and would be vulnerable to vital supplies, might include an anti-submarine cruiser like the Invincible, a couple of Type-42 Sheffield Class destroyers with their Sea Dart missiles for area air defence, one or two nuclear-powered attack submarines armed with their own, probably passive sonar, and eventually the Sub-Harpoon missile, and several frigates adding a mixture of Sea Wolf anti-missile missiles, Exocet anti-submarine missiles, Icaro anti-submarine missiles and 4.5in torpedoes.

The Soviet Union believes that the Northern Fleet has about twice as many surface ships as Nato in the eastern Atlantic, 1.7 times the number of allied submarines and one and half times as many aircraft. There are infinite arguments over the relative strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Navy, in terms of quantity and quality. But the Northern Fleet would probably make sure it has drawn all the submarine it needs through the GIUK gap, to monitor submarine from the Northern Fleet as they slip into the open Atlantic. But as Soviet warships now travel the globe under Russian blue water strategy, the Northern Fleet would probably make sure it has drawn all the submarine it needs through the GIUK gap, to monitor submarine before any have started. The GIUK gap is difficult enough in itself; it would be like shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted.

The whole concept of a defensive screen to protect convoys chugging across the Atlantic in wartime has had to be amended with the increased range of modern weapons like the Russian SSN-3 cruise missile whose range varies between 300 and 450 miles. Moreover a tightly controlled convoy which

for strength in the last war, lanes clear for a convoy of the breakthrough which would bring a decisive advantage to the defence. Active sonar which bounces a signal off the target submarine cannot reach more than an estimated 10 miles or so, and only as far as that in good conditions. Passive sonar which involves listening to the other boat's noise "signature", can extend much farther but cannot determine the other boat's range. The balance of coverage lies with the fast, long-endurance nuclear-powered submarine which comes in to make its kill when ships away at high speed before the defending navy can establish a "fix" and retaliate.

In one sense this benefits the strategic balance, by enabling the ballistic missile submarine to deter any superpower which hankers after first-strike capability. In another sense it provides the Royal Navy with its most pressing, most enduring difficulty. He who rules the waves in the North Atlantic could be he who rules beneath them.

More to be done at home

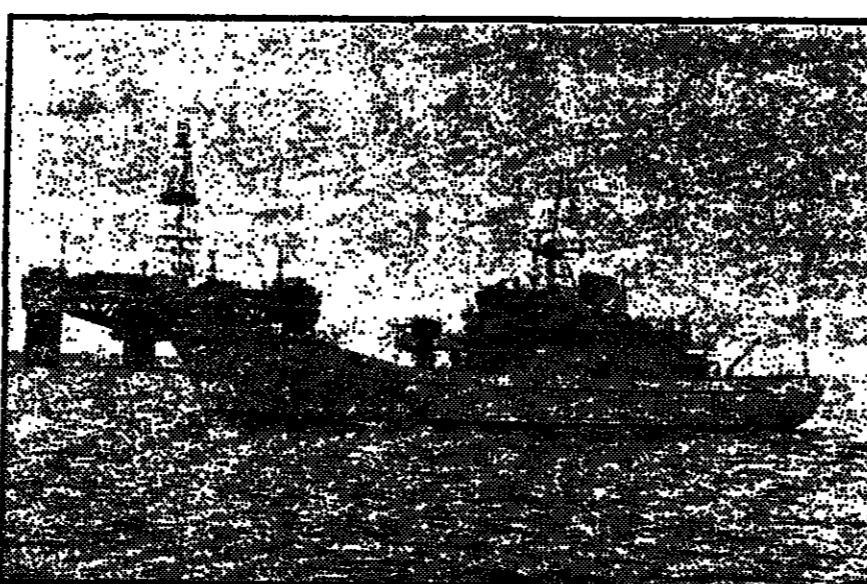
by Captain John Moore

The past 30 years have brought a surprising increase in the tasks facing the maritime forces employed around the coasts of Britain. In pre-war years the main concern was fishery protection. Since peace-time hostilities started in Greece in 1946 there has been a rising flood of jobs to do.

The arrival of giant tankers has increased the risk of pollution beyond the belief of 15 years ago and has multiplied the hydrographer's requirements enormously. Repressive activities in certain Commonwealth countries have brought a surge of illegal immigrants. High prices and quick profits have expanded the scope of the smugglers. The discovery of large oil and gas fields has produced a great crop of rigs in various areas, some close to and some distant from our shores.

These are but a few of the maritime problems now facing our planners—behind them all lurks the sinister prospect of international terrorism, financed by such states as Libya, Iraq and the Soviet Union.

These are some of the tasks which now face the ships and the use of mines and time-bombs extending



HMS Jersey passes through Kirkcaldy Bay, Fife, on her way to protection duty in the North Sea.

the problems of search and from the shore to harbour rescue for both air and surface accidents, the control of shipping in confined waters, the discharge and dumping of refuse, the possibility of industrial action and unrest on rigs, collision and fire risks at the same rigs, the manifold problems presented by wrecks, the reappearance of wartime mines and the possibility of sabotage in tanks which now face the ships and the use of mines and time-bombs extending

areas outside close coastal and riverine waters and fall on the Royal Navy. At a time when successive defence cuts have seriously eroded the Navy's numbers it is worth considering not only what is available for such tasks but what would improve this situation.

Last October, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, complained that criticisms of defence cuts were "long in emotion but short in facts". The facts are simple—the active fleet now

comprises one aircraft carrier, two helicopters, eight light cruisers, destroyers, 39 frigates (some in various stages of refit), four ballistic missile submarines, nine fleet submarines, 19 patrol submarines, one assault ship, one helicopter support ship (RFA), 28 minesweepers and minehunters (MCMVs) with a support ship and eight RNR sweepers, two offshore patrol craft, two coastal patrol craft, five modified minesweepers in Hongkong, three unarmed fast training boats and one fast attack craft, four survey ships, four coastal survey vessels and five inshore surveying craft.

Future programmes include helicopter cruisers, destroyers, frigates, fleet submarines, mine counter measures vessels and the remainder of the offshore and patrol craft. Most of these are designed for fleet operations. Only the MCMVs, training boats and patrol craft are suited for operations such as have been discussed.

The primary difficulty in any kind of combined operation is that of command and control. During the past centuries this has brought confusion and disaster when inefficiently constituted, victory when properly organized. Today there exists an organization for cooperation on land which brings together all those concerned involved with crisis. There seems no reason why similar arrangements should not be established for maritime operations, particularly when adequate facilities exist at naval headquarters throughout the United Kingdom.

Two commanders-in-chief control our naval affairs; C-in-C Fleet at Northwood is responsible for the ships, C-in-C Naval Home Command at Portsmouth for their support and the administration of shore facilities. Under them are the various flag officers and port admirals at Rosyth, Medway, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Between them the latter have charge of all the waters surrounding the British Isles and have the capability for working in close cooperation with not only the other two Services but all government services and departments. Legal problems may arise but adequate staffing on a permanent or consultative basis would overcome these.

We therefore have adequate headquarters to direct maritime operations of any kind and the problems requiring a higher level of decision-making arise, there remains the Ministry of Defence where similar multi-purpose manning can be achieved. Here the Home Office, Trinity House, the Treasury, the Departments of Trade and Industry could all be represented with immediate links to their outstations.

Under such an organization responsibility for those

Ruling beneath the waves

for strength in the last war, lanes clear for a convoy of the breakthrough which would bring a decisive advantage to the defence. Active sonar which bounces a signal off the target submarine cannot reach more than an estimated 10 miles or so, and only as far as that in good conditions. Passive sonar which involves listening to the other boat's noise "signature", can extend much farther but cannot determine the other boat's range. The balance of coverage lies with the fast, long-endurance nuclear-powered submarine which comes in to make its kill when ships away at high speed before the defending navy can establish a "fix" and retaliate.

Defence in depth is the overriding factor in the North Atlantic. The picture is three-dimensional, with maritime reconnaissance aircraft flown by the RAF carrying out long-range patrols, and Sea King and Wessex-3 anti-submarine helicopters, sent from Royal Navy warships, "dunking" their sonar listening devices into the thermal layers of the North Atlantic to trap the enemy hunter-killer submarines, before launching their torpedoes.

Because two, and preferably three, helicopters are needed to fix the position of the submarine, it is not only cheaper but tactically desirable to put helicopters to sea in groups—as on the new Invincible class of anti-submarine cruisers, or on HMS Hermes and for the route periodically "cleared" by a task force on the lookout for enemy marauders.

A typical task force, briefed to sweep the sea

In which she serves

by Penny Symon

The three women's Services celebrate their diamond jubilee this year, and the Women's Royal Naval Service will be the subject of an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Former Wrens will be asked to lend mementoes of their days in the Service for the exhibition, which is expected to be open for about six months.

The WRNS came into being in 1917, with Dame Katherine Pusey as director, and was disbanded two years later. The women took on such jobs as wireless telegraphy, coding and cyphering, as well as clerical and domestic duties and driving. At the end of the First World War the strength of the corps was 4,821.

In August 1938 the Admiralty Board decided that there was a need for women to assist the Navy as a separate corps, and be organized on a civilian basis. In April 1939 it was announced that a corps to be known as the Women's Royal Naval Service was to be formed. It would replace Naval officers and men on certain duties in time of war.

Until war did break out, Wrens were recruited but lived in their own homes and attended a prescribed number of weekly drills at Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport and Rosyth. On September 3, 1939, there were about a thousand of those "immobile" Wrens employed in communications, driving, cooking, writing and as stewards. Permission was then obtained for the recruitment of officers and ratings to serve in various parts of Britain.

The Service expanded in

1941 and 1942 and work categories were introduced.

Officers were introduced

and were trained for their particular job, they go to a

Naval shore establishment in Britain or overseas.

The WRNS officers are drawn from three sources: ratings selected for promotion, cadets

Wrens who enter with two A levels and serve for a year

as ratings before selection

for officer training, and

direct entrants with a degree

or comparable qualification.

New entry training for ratings, now at Burghfield, near Reading, will move to HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall, in 1980, where the women will work alongside new Naval ratings.

Officers are drawn from

three sources: ratings selected for promotion, cadets

Wrens who enter with two A levels and serve for a year

as ratings before selection

for officer training, and

direct entrants with a degree

or comparable qualification.

Commandant Vonla McBride, who was appointed Director of the WRNS in

August this year, is not in

favour of total integration with the Navy which, in any case, would not happen because all the women's services within Nato countries are non-combatant.

There is a great deal of valuable work that we can do ashore, and I am happy with the progress that is being made, although there is some way to go yet, she says.

"We have a happy relationship with the Navy, which regards us with affection, and as something special. If we went all out for total equality, I think that would be spoilt. The Navy appreciates the work we do, but treats us as women."

Miss McBride says that the range of jobs available is very wide, and appeals to every type of girl.

Girls are trained along

side the men, and there are

still opportunities for work overseas. Our pay compares favourably with that of the men, and an increasing number of women are making moves later towards closer

to their career. It is an attractive life."

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The Silver Jubilee Fleet Review

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We thought we'd take advantage of this Special Report on the Royal Navy to tell you something about the acquaint visits that will be available to school and university students during the year.

These visits, which range in duration from one to five days, are designed to give you a fair picture of what you can expect from a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines and what we shall expect from you as an Officer. There will be a number of opportunities to discuss naval life with young Officers in your own age group.

This year the programme includes visits to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the major naval bases at Plymouth, Portsmouth and Rosyth, including time in Her Majesty's Ships, and the Royal Naval Air Stations at Culdrose, Cornwall and Yeovilton, Somerset.

Acquaint facilities have also been arranged at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, near Exeter.

If you are selected for one of these visits we will, of course, pay your travelling expenses and provide accommodation where necessary.

As you have probably gathered from the surrounding articles, the modern Navy has considerably more to offer than a life on the ocean wave. But this nonetheless remains the main feature of a naval career.

Today's Royal Navy is a highly efficient, tightly-knit, technically-based organisation. The modern technical skills that this demands must be combined with the personal attributes which have traditionally been required of Officers in the Royal Navy.

The demands made on today's Officers are

extremely high. Those who come up to the required standards, however, can look forward to a worthwhile and rewarding career.

If you are genuinely interested in a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines, and you'd like to take advantage of the acquaint scheme, or simply wish to have further information on Officer careers, please write to me, giving details of your age, school or university, and present or expected academic qualifications.

Officer Entry Section, (9GX1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Michael James

Michael James
Captain Royal Navy



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

'MINERS' PENSIONS

The most important bargaining over miners' pensions is not between the NUM and the Coal Board, but between the NUM, the TUC and the Government. Even if the union accepts that its claim cannot be met under the current rules for pay restraint, because it would destroy them, the problem remains of discovering a formula for 1977-78 that would let the miners through without leaving the door wide open for others. Even if the union and the board agree, will the Government keep up its apparent determination not to meet the immense cost of an agreement through subsidies? Mr Gormley seems to take the Government's reported attitude for little more than an initial negotiating position; if it is no more than that, then nonsense is made of all that ministers have said about the need for nationalized industries to pay their way.

The simple basis of the miners' claim is one that most would sympathize with. Life underground is hard and it is wrong for the structure of earnings and pensions to impose too great a penalty on the man who prefers to move to less arduous work in his later years. Such workers retire early in most developed countries, though it is not usual for miners to receive full pay from the time they stop work

to the time they reach the ordinary retiring age; but the Coal Board has conceded that too in principle.

The miners' claim went further, however. They want surface workers to have the same right to early retirement, even if they have never worked underground. In most other countries special treatment is linked to service underground, and rightly so. Here and now, the position of surface workers is especially important because of the knock-on effect in other industries if they were to be included. Their work involves no unusual discomfort or danger, and other groups of workers, particularly in the power industry and the railways, expect their own earnings to keep pace with theirs. Underground workers might get by as a special case, but early retirement for surface workers could under no pretext be set outside next year's general restrictions on pay bargaining, whatever form they may eventually take.

The early pensioning of miners is bound to be expensive. In a labour force which until recently had been shrinking for many years the proportion of relatively old workers is high. The cost of paying a full wage to them for several years of retirement as well as to the workers replacing

them is bound to be heavy. In addition there is reason to doubt whether it will be possible to recruit enough new miners to keep production at its present level. Some counterbalancing savings might be made if the change hastened the closure of unprofitable mines kept going for social reasons, where the average age of miners is often especially high. But there is no sign that the union would welcome this course.

In 1975 the industry made a profit of £5m. In 1976 demand was almost static and production declined. The Government have committed hundreds of millions of pounds to financing the industry's expansion in the next few years—perhaps more than the outlook really justifies. This investment is in no way a precedent for committing hundreds of millions more to subsidizing the cost of early retirement. If the hardships of digging up the coal (let alone those of servicing the process on the surface) are accepted in the industry as requiring retirement at fifty-five or sixty on full pay, then the coal should be sold at a price that reflects that fact, and plans for future development should take the real costs of the operation fully into account.

thus made it possible for negotiations between them to resume.

On the outcome of these negotiations now depends the fate of the political reform, and perhaps also that of Señor Oriol, since the opposition has decided to give priority to its demand for a total amnesty, along with recognition of all political parties, before opening discussions on the legal and procedural arrangements for the coming general election. The government gives the impression that it is not opposed in principle either to a total amnesty for politically motivated crimes committed under the dictatorship or to the legalization of the Communist Party, but that it feels rank-and-file supporters of the Franco regime need a little more time to prepare themselves for two such traumatic concessions.

The opposition gives the impression that it is now more or less convinced of the government's good faith and is therefore willing to help it overcome its genuine tactical problems. If both sides approach the negotiations in this spirit, there is no reason why they should not succeed.

PROGRESS OF REFORM IN SPAIN

Señor Antonio María de Oriol y Urquijo, the president of the Spanish Council of State, has now been held captive by his kidnappers for nearly four weeks. He has apparently survived two deadlines for his "execution", and his captors are now saying that they will hold him "as long as necessary", while repeating their demands for the release of extreme left or separatist militants who are being held by the state as hostages.

The Spanish Government has reacted with commendable coolness. As far as is known it has not negotiated with the kidnappers. Certainly it has not given in to their demands, which would simply encourage them or others to repeat the odious stratagem of taking hostages in the future. But nor has it allowed itself to be provoked into authoritarian counter-measures or intimidated by the fear of a right-wing backlash into slowing down its programme of political reform. It has indicated that it is prepared to widen the political amnesty announced last July, particularly in favour of specially oppressed communities such as the Basques, in the interests of national reconciliation.

BOAT-BUILDERS CATCH THE TIDE

Many of those who are more usually to be seen going down to the sea in ships will this month head inland—to London's Earls Court, which is once again the venue for the International Boat Show. There, in and around a central pool somewhat optimistically designed to conjure up visions of a completed and viable Brighton Marina, they will be able to mess about to their heart's content in more than 600 boats.

The annual boat show has been, and remains, an invaluable enlivener of the port-opening days of January. This year it is also a symbol of increasingly successful British enterprise and industry, carried out in small yards scattered throughout the creeks, rivers, estuaries, coves and harbours of this superb island.

However, save the plight of Britain's major shipbuilders, the more modest concerns responsible for building small and medium-sized craft are doing extremely well. Their annual turnover is now in the region of £200m, and more than 40 per cent of their output in value

terms is destined for overseas buyers.

Eighteen months ago, the industry's leaders were protesting vigorously, and clearly with justification, about the effect of government measures on their activities. In his Budget of April, 1975, Mr Healey had imposed a 25 per cent luxury rate of value-added tax on boats. This had an immediate, and in some cases catastrophic, effect on the builders. Home demand slumped, craftsmen were sacked (it is estimated that nearly a fifth of the 30,000-strong labour force went in a year), and export orders were lost. The situation improved towards the end of 1975, when the lifting of restrictions on marine mortgages boosted optimism about future prospects. But the major improvement was delayed until the April Budget of 1976, when the VAT rate was halved to 12½ per cent.

New life was breathed into the home market, and the Chancellor's move was followed by the slump in the value of the pound, which gave added stimulus to the industry's export drive. The

prices of British-built craft, like those of so many other goods made in these islands, are now extremely attractive to foreign buyers, and they have been quick to realize it. This is the chief reason why the number of overseas visitors to Earls Court this week and next is expected to pass the 20,000 mark—nearly twice the level reached a year ago.

There are perhaps two lessons to be learnt from the story of the small boat-builders. The first is that there is sense in the argument put forward by many British industrialists that a healthy and competitive export business can often only be built on a foundation of thriving home demand. The second is that ministers in general, and Chancellors of the Exchequer in particular, should not be too proud to admit the error of their ways—as Mr Healey was not when he cut the VAT rate on boats. Had that not been done, it is more than likely that the small British boatbuilder would today be in an even worse state than his bigger brother—if, indeed, he existed at all.

WORSHIP IN SCHOOLS

From Mr Yehudi Menuhin
Sir, May I beg the courtesy of your columns to say a few words on a subject that is very near my heart? Your report of December 29 on the meeting of the Assistant Masters' Association quoted Mr David Wallington, head of religious studies at Strand School, as wishing to propose that the clause covering daily religious assemblies (ie morning prayers) be deleted from the Education Act, as he felt that these had become meaningless and of no value spiritually, and that they be replaced by one weekly service led by a devout and committed Christian.

He is obviously a sincere judge based on long and sad experience; mine a far lesser one and based only on my own small school, but I would nonetheless like to offer what I have found as a result of our particular form of assembly with which we prepare our staff as well as our pupils to face the day.

We meet in a spirit of humility first to sing, at its simplest a healthy opening of lungs, then to listen to the headmaster's reading of passages from various great books of a metaphysical, religious or philosophical character such as the Bible, the Koran, the Zendavista, classical and contemporary literature, parables that bear a human, ethical or moral significance, and, I hope, a feeling of the continuity of thought of man's eternal necessity to fill that incomplete within which nags us all. Follows a minute's silence for

contemplation, for ruminating, for meditation—call it what you will—but at least it brings stillness, that beatitude we have all lost in the hurly-burly of today's world.

Amongst our young are Chinese, Indians, Europeans of various creeds, and we have found that this short moment together is a reunion in the true meaning of that word and a sharing of purpose in which all, staff and pupils, are equal.

Yours faithfully,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
Yehudi Menuhin School,
Stoke d'Abernon,
Surrey.

December 31.

The fate of Chiang Ching

From Miss Marina Warner
Sir, Bernard Levin has drawn attention (December 29) to the current Chinese campaign against Chiang Ching. As well as being charged with importing the *Sound of Music* and *Gone with the Wind*, she is denounced for ordering the death of all insects in the Canton botanical gardens, while wall posters have portrayed her reading handbooks of Paris fashions and Hongkong beauty parlours or luxuriating in bed while the *Gang of Four* lick her feet.

Richard Harris described (December 30) the indignation of the young Mao at the bongos of women. I would suggest that the charges against his widow reveal that the Chinese have not unburdened themselves of the accumulated prejudice of centuries, and that while great reforms have indeed been under-

Human rights in Jerusalem

From The Dean of St George's Anglican Cathedral, Jerusalem, and others

Sir, Let's play a game.

On December 28, three days after Christmas, three Jewish families living in adjacent houses in Bethnal Green were evicted from their homes in order to make room for recently arrived immigrants from the erstwhile British colonies. On that Tuesday morning a detachment of British troops surrounded the area as bulldozers completely demolished the houses. Thirty-one Jews were involved, chiefly schoolchildren. When the authorities in Whitehall were questioned about such apparent injustice, they assured the complainants that very adequate flat accommodation had been offered in Croydon for the ejected families at a price beyond their means.

Stop one minute before phoning your MP. For Bethnal Green read Jerusalem Old City and for Jewish families read Arab families.

Are you surprised that Christmas has been a heavy time of year for many here in the Middle East, what with the irony of a pile of arms being placed immediately outside the door of the Church of the Holy Nativity (of the Prince of Peace!) in Bethlehem on the morning of December 24, and yet another 250 exports worth £1 million.

Who we wonder, are the anti-Semites? We who think it is important for the world to know such facts, or the Israeli authorities who order such action? There are, to our personal knowledge, many Jewish people, Israeli friends of ours, who deeply regret such actions, but tragically they remain a small minority in Israel. Not for the first time, very much depends on a brave and unyielding remnant.

G. CLIVE HANFORD,
EDWARD EVERLY,
C. MURRAY ROGERS,
ADPLA M. EVERLY,
St George's Close,
PO Box 19018,
Jerusalem.

December 31.

Clocks in danger

From Mr R. C. Pennefather

Sir, My Court of Assistants would much appreciate the publication of a warning to those who have in their care and protection clocks of particular value.

A group of thieves directed, it would appear, by one or more persons with horological knowledge, is systematically selecting and stealing from public and semi-public buildings, and from private owners, both long case and bracket clocks of great importance and certainly of great value. It is believed that many, if not most, of these clocks are smuggled out of the country within hours of their removal, and, once abroad, there is little likelihood of their recovery.

There are already not a few fine examples remaining in this country of the art of clock making, which reached its zenith in Britain in the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries, when the work of British makers was very highly regarded both here and abroad, and it is very much to be hoped that those who possess, and take pride in, these beautiful and irreplaceable clocks, or have them in their care and protection, will be exceptionally alert in the future to prevent their loss by theft.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
R. C. PENNEFATHER, Clerk,
The Worshipful Company of
Clockmakers,
38 Bedford Place,
Bloomsbury Square, WC1.

Temple Bar

From Sir Hugh Wontner

Sir, Mr Breeze's letter in *The Times* today (December 31) is most helpful in drawing attention to the dilapidated state of Temple Bar, still languishing at the entrance of Theobald's Park in Hertfordshire. He is correct in saying that, if this famous monument is not now saved, it will disappear for ever.

I am happy to report that the owners of Temple Bar, the heirs of Sir Henry Meux, who bought the gateway from the City Corporation after it had been dismantled in 1878, when it had to be removed for traffic reasons, among others, have granted an option to the Trustees of the Temple Bar Trust to purchase the monument for the sum that it cost originally when Sir Christopher Wren designed it, to be erected within the bounds of the City of London as soon as necessary funds can be raised.

The Press Council recently declared that the publication of information about the private lives or concerns of individuals without their owner is only acceptable if there is a legitimate public interest overriding the right of privacy.

Entry into public life does not disqualify an individual from a right to privacy about his private affairs save when the circumstances relating to the private life of an individual occupying a public position may be likely to affect the performance of his public duties or public confidence in him or his office.

Mrs Colquhoun is a Member of Parliament. If that had been all, the Press Council might not have considered that that fact alone

entitled the *Daily Mail* to intrude upon her privacy any more than if she had been a private person.

Members of Parliament are entitled to a degree of protection in their private lives. But it is not all, and the factor which in the opinion of the Council takes the case just over the border into what is permissible is that she is a Member of Parliament who has taken a very strong stand on feminist issues and has not been loath to publicize her views upon them. In the Press Council's view this brings the breakdown of her marriage and the fact that she had left what had been her matrimonial home to share a house with another woman into the area of those matters which the public is entitled to know as being capable of affecting the performance of her public duties or affecting public confidence in her views as a Member of Parliament.

The Council condemned as a gross intrusion into privacy the publication of the name of Mrs Colquhoun's woman friend.

In fact the Press Council's adjudication was exactly to the opposite effect. The relevant portion was as follows:

The Press Council recently declared that the publication of information about the private lives or concerns of individuals without their owner is only acceptable if there is a legitimate public interest overriding the right of privacy.

Entry into public life does not disqualify an individual from a right to privacy about his private affairs save when the circumstances relating to the private life of an individual occupying a public position may be likely to affect the performance of his public duties or public confidence in him or his office.

I should add that the Press Council's Complaints Committee is composed of an equal number of lay and of press members, presided over by an independent chairman.

The lay members represent a useful cross section of the varied interests but I have never known either the Committee or the Council to divide on lines influenced by their respective associations. In the present case, the Press Council was unanimous in confirming the decision of the Complaints Committee.

Yours truly,

HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, The Press Council, 1 Salisbury Square, EC4.

January 6.

You will be poorer

From Mr Dominick H. M. Henry

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr George Davies (January 4) has missed three vital points. First, no one is suggesting that "middle class income groups" are badly off in absolute terms. Nor are they suggesting that they are anything but better off than the vast majority of other workers; what is being stated, quite correctly, is that they have suffered the greatest fall in their standard of living in relative terms, and thus the greatest blow to their morale and their sense of security.

If one accepts that it is from the middle class income groups that the leadership that is so vital to this country must come, then this blow to morale is disastrous.

Second, he fails to see that it is no longer the differentials between classes of worker in this country alone that count. Middle class workers look overseas for their comparisons, and what they see lowers their morale even further. If one believes that differentials should be narrowed, which I do not, one must pay the price, not only in terms of emigrating talent, but, far more importantly, in terms of the consciously or unconsciously resentful and therefore uninspired managers who stay. And yes, job satisfaction is a reality; but even if a man can get both job satisfaction overseas and more money, the point becomes irrelevant.

Third, middle income earners would not, I think, resent being squeezed so viciously if there was the slightest evidence that their sacrifices were doing anyone else

any good.

By what conceivable distortion of theology and history could any such analogy be drawn?

Can we now look forward to a further article which will explain that when Our Lord told Simon Peter to "launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught . . . and they inclosed a great multitude of fishes and their net brake".

St Luke (5.46), this was no more than an early rehearsal for Sharpenerville?

Yours faithfully,

DOMINICK H. M. HENRY, 27 Montpelier Row, Twickenham, Middlesex.

January 5.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT STEEL, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, SW1.

January 6.

Yours faithfully,

C. R. WELLS, 72 Elizabeth Street, SW1.

January 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The future of the aerospace industry

From Mr Richard Worcester

Sir, With the *de facto* nationalization of the aerospace industry, a dozen years after the dramatic cancellations of 1964 seems a good time to take stock and look ahead. In 1963 Britain was a powerful exporter second in the non-Communist world only to America, and today Britain with nearly £1 billion annual exports remains a strong second.

This contrasts with nuclear power where the United Kingdom has also been second only to America in total MWhs of operable capacity, and in future commitments to nuclear power Britain is seen in the United States Congressional Record as in process of dropping its lead.

In technology, Britain is reduced to being a follower, while the United States is leading.

In electronics, Britain is reduced to being a follower, while the United States is leading.

In space, Britain is reduced to being a follower, while the United States is leading.

While such a merger would probably be resisted by mergers, it shows how strongly the dice



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK, January 6. Today, the Feast of Epiphany, Holy Communion was celebrated in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offering of Gold, Frankincense and Myrra were given on behalf of The Queen by Captain Michael Tufnell, RN, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Julian Pilkington, St. George's Ushers to Her Majesty. The Bishop of London (Dean of the Chapel Royal) officiated and The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

The Hon. Lady Wakefield gave birth to a son in Westminster Hospital on January 5.

Birthdays today

Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins, 78; Mr Gerald Durrell, 52; Sir Frederick Gibberd, 63; Sir James Harford, 73; Sir Maynard Jenour, 72; General Sir Gordon Macmillan of Macmillan, 75; Major-General Sir Alan Alister Pilkington, 57; Mr Arnold Ridley, 81; Colonel Sir Eric St Johnston, 66; Sir Edgar Stephens, 76.

Marriage

Mr P. M. W. Seldon and Mrs J. Breakwell. The marriage took place on December 31 at Tunbridge Wells, between Mr Peter M. Seldon, of Willingdon, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Seldon, and Mrs Julie Breakwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lansdale.

Luncheon

Lord Mayor of Belfast. The Lord Mayor of Belfast was host yesterday at a new year luncheon in the City Hall, Belfast. The guests included: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason, the Minister of State, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Mr A. B. Connall; Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. G. Smith, CBE, MC, DSO, DSC, and Mr K. Newman, Chief Constable.

Latest wills

Gift to law charity. Miss Margaret Catherine Audrey Woodward, widow of London solicitor, died £23,123 net. After a personal request she left the residue to the Solicitors' Benevolent Association for a fund in memory of her parents.

Other estates include (net, before duty paid): duty on some estates not declared:

Schreiber, Helene, of Rhos-on-Sea (duty £58,001) £147,466

Hinchliffe, Judge, QC, of Hale, Cheshire £34,513

Thornton, Mr John Reynolds, of Milford-on-Sea £153,820

Hulley, Mr Clifford Keenah, of Sheffield, company director £118,806

James, Mr William Annis, of Dingley, Northamptonshire, farmer £233,290

Strachan, Mrs Olive, of Cardiff £242,128

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, Jan 7, 1952

Princess Pocahontas

The church of St George's, Gravesend, which was threatened with demolition, is to be preserved as a chapel of unity in memory of Princess Pocahontas who is buried there. A Act of Parliament has been approved by the Church Commissioners and the necessary authorization by Order in Council is awaited. The church has been scheduled as a building of historical and architectural merit and the first approach of the Royal Fine Arts Commission has been sought to the plans for repairing it. Princess Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatan, over-king of the Algonquin Indians of Virginia, saved the life of Captain John Smith, the colonial governor of Virginia, who had been captured by Indians. She eventually married an Englishman, Thomas Rolfe, and came to England in 1616. She was starting to return home a year later when she died at Gravesend and was buried in the church of St George's Church. When Gravesend changed from a residential to an industrial town the population moved from the waterfront leaving St George's Church surrounded by factories, warehouses and open spaces, a church which was destined to be closed under the pastoral reorganization measure of 1949.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Rear-Admiral J. H. F. Eberle to be promoted vice-admiral on January 1, 1977, and as Chief of Fleet Support, in succession to Admiral Sir Peter White, in April. Group Captain R. A. Mason to be first Director of Defence Studies at RAF Staff College, Bracknell. The following to be members of the Scientific Manipulation Advisory Group: Dr D. Elwood, Microbiological Research Establishment, Harrow, divisional officer AEROMARINE, London; Dr J. A. Johnson, Division of Prosthetic Devices, University of Bristol; Dr R. Green, medical statistician, Department of Philosophy, Leeds University; Prof. J. G. Williams, professor of Biochemistry, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London.

Nation of lawyers guards against abuse of personal files

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Jan 6

The West German Interior Ministry has started work on a scheme to protect the citizen against misuse of files on him held by both public and private agencies.

At the end of last year the Data Protection Law completed its passage through Parliament. Government spokesmen claim that this statute will, when the bulk of its provisions come into force on January 1, 1978, put West Germany far ahead of the rest of the European Community in this field.

The law affects information on people kept not only in computers but also in all other forms of data storage equipment including the filing cabinet and the cardboard folder.

Regulations are made governing the storage and use of filed personal information and the circumstances under which it can be communicated to others. In the public sphere, firms above a certain size will be required to appoint data protection supervisors from among their own staff, who will in turn be supervised by authorities to be set up by the states. Company staff files are protected, as well as bank accounts and creditworthiness dossiers.

The first visible effect of the new law will be seen on July 1 this year, when a federal committee, whose yet to be appointed, takes office with the task of supervising the use of all files held by federal authorities.

This official, already variously nicknamed as "the computer Ombudsman" or "Big Brother's big brother", will then have six months to organize his staff and his procedures.

Because the task of supervising all the files in a country of 62 million people is regarded as far too much for one institution, state and local governments will also be required to appoint commissioners of their own.

In the private sector, firms

liable of private details held by agencies of the federal Government, the governments of the states and the municipal councils, including their police and tax authorities.

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supervisors from among their own staff, who will in turn be supervised by authorities to be set up by the states. Company staff files are protected, as well as bank accounts and creditworthiness dossiers.

By January 1, 1979, agencies holding personal files will also be required to introduce technical and organizational measures to protect the information in their hands from abuse.

The new law affords the private citizen the express right to demand information concerning what is kept on file about him, answers to and to demand correction of false data. Illegally retained files must be destroyed on discovery. Files which have lost their purpose or have been "dead" for five years must be sealed away or, by special request from their subject, destroyed altogether.

The Germans are often described as a nation of lawyers, and the national tendency to regulate all areas of life through the statute book sometimes creates more problems

than it solves. The Data Protection Law is going to be very difficult to enforce, but when it is, it seems clear that it will enhance rather than inhibit individual civil rights.

But the need for such a law is arguably much greater in West Germany than in many other Western countries, because of the way the nation is run. An educated guess suggests there are files on me in the following places:

My local municipal council, where, like every other resident, I make known where I live and who I am, regardless of marital or other relationship;

The local labour office (children's allowances);

The Federal Press Office, Bonn (as an accredited foreign correspondent);

The police of every West German state (10) and West Berlin (hotel registrations and, regrettably, in

a few cases parking or speeding offences);

The federal traffic records office in Flensburg (concerned with registration of vehicles, and aforementioned motorway offences);

The Bonn Public Order Office (driving licence);

Country vehicle records office (car registration);

The federal Post Office (savings account, etc.);

Federal Border Guard (immigration service records of arrivals and departures for journeys abroad);

The Bonn office of the federal government (records of personal possessions imported into West Germany);

The federal Parliament (visitor's permit); and

The Public Health Office, Bonn (inoculations).

This list, which I am sure is incomplete, derives exclusively from the public sphere. There is no space even to start on the private institutions holding personal information about me. Exercising one's rights under the Data Protection Law could become a full-time occupation in itself.

Director-General of Manning at the Air Ministry, an appointment he had until his retirement in 1947. The period after retirement was not one of idleness for Cordingley, he became Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund in 1947 and, in 15 energetic years of his stewardship, the Fund raised over £5 million, spending in the same period over £8 million, on relieving distress among RAF and WRAF personnel and their families.

He was also a Governor of the Star and Garter Home and was a member of the BBC Central Appeals Advisory Committee from 1957 to 1970. He retired as Director of the RAF Benevolent Fund in 1962.

He was made an OBE in 1939, CB in 1957, CBE in 1964, KCVO in 1966 and was promoted to the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in 1962. He married first in 1913, Elizabeth Ruth Carpenter, who died in 1938. They had one son. His second marriage, in 1944, was to Mrs Joan Isabel Morton.

OBITUARY

AIR VICE-MARSHAL SIR JOHN CORDINGLEY

RAF Benevolent Fund

Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Cordingley, KCB, KCVO, CBE, died on January 5 at the age of 86. He had been Director-General of Manning at the Air Ministry, an appointment he had until his retirement in 1947. The period after retirement was not one of idleness for Cordingley, he became Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund in 1947 and, in 15 energetic years of his stewardship, the Fund raised over £5 million, spending in the same period over £8 million, on relieving distress among RAF and WRAF personnel and their families.

He was also a Governor of the Star and Garter Home and was a member of the BBC Central Appeals Advisory Committee from 1957 to 1970. He retired as Director of the RAF Benevolent Fund in 1962.

He was made an OBE in 1939, CB in 1957, CBE in 1964, KCVO in 1966 and was promoted to the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in 1962.

He was Officer-in-Charge of Records, RAF, from 1922 to 1939 gaining promotion as far as Group Captain in that period. In 1939 he was appointed

MR EDWARD DAWS

Sir Dingle Foot writes:

Edward Whitfield Daws, universally known among his wide circle of friends as "Dorry", who died on December 19, was one of the outstanding schoolmasters of his time. He was a brilliant teacher especially of history. But his influence extended far outside the classroom. He took the closest personal interest in his pupils both at school and in their later careers.

His own career had an exceptional beginning. As an undergraduate at London University he met J. H. Whitehouse, a Liberal Member of Parliament who had once been a Private Secretary to Lloyd George but who during the war became the exponent of extreme pacifist views. Dorry sat in the House of Commons gallery during a series of parliamentary debates. In 1918 Whitehouse was defeated at the polls and a year later he founded Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight. Dorry became the Second Master. I myself was a pupil at Bembridge from the second term after its foundation in 1919 until 1924. Those years must have been unique in educational history. Whitehouse still had many contacts from his parliamentary days. Visitors to the school included C. F. G. Masterman, Dean Inge, H. W. Nevins, Harold Laski, E. D. Morel, John Mayfield and (during a short landing from his yacht) Arnold Bennett.

Later in 1921 he became Vice-Master at Clavesmore School. The headmaster was Aubrey de Selincourt who had been one of his colleagues at Bembridge and who was also a brilliant teacher. Then in 1932 Dorry was somewhat unexpectedly chosen Headmaster of Lindisfarne, where he himself had been educated at the princely salary of £400 per year plus his keep. Lindisfarne was then privately owned but he succeeded in making it a public school.

He remained until 1935. His book *Memories of Lindisfarne* is a vivid account of both masters and boys and should be compulsory reading for all headmasters. In particular he describes the intake of German Jewish pupils during the days of Nazi persecution.

He had two successful marriages. After his retirement my wife and I spent several weeks ends with his second wife, Barbara, and Dorry at his home in the Isle of Wight. There was still a stream of pupils mainly, as I recall, from the Far East and of Chinese origin. Through our his life he never lost his interest in the young.

M YVES BOUILLIET

M Yves Bouilliet, who died on December 29 at the age of 75, joined the staff of *The Times* shortly after the outbreak of the First World War when she was 15 and retired in 1959 having served the company for over 44 years.

She was engaged as a short-hand typist in the Advertisers department and was, if not the first, one of the first female clerical employees to be taken on by the company. By diligence, reliability and hard work she made her way upwards to become secretary to two former managers of *The Times*, Mr C. S. Kent and Mr Francis Mathew, both of whom had a high regard for her cheerful disposition, her efficiency and her resourcefulness.

Though she might have raised an eyebrow at the expression, she was a good "company" woman, taking great pains in the engaging of new staff, easing their paths on arrival, playing tennis at Ravensbourne and, during the Second World War, writing long, newsy letters in her firm hand to girls serving in HM Forces.

Viktor Stanitsyn, the veteran actor and director at the Moscow Arts Theatre, has died at the age of 79. A pupil of Stanislavsky, Stanitsyn, who held many top state awards, began his career as an actor in 1918, then became a director at the theatre.

Mr Philip Hart, the Michigan senator, one of the most respected liberals in Congress, died in Washington on December 26. He was 64.

He was one of the prime movers behind the historic voting rights act of 1965 which removed restrictions on voting for millions of southern blacks.

Silver and plate realize £25,694

A sale of English and foreign silver and plate at Sotheby's yesterday realized a total of £25,694 for sixteen buyers. The highest price paid £1,600 for a set of bright-cut silver, comprising 88 pieces by different makers and B. Silverman paid £1,500 for a silver-gilt epergne by Elkington & Co, Birmingham.

A George IV four-piece tea-set by Samuel Rogers went to a Hampshire dealer for £1,400.

Church news

Resignations

The Rev. J. D. V. Clatterbuck, All Saints' Weston Super Mare, diocesan Chaplain, has resigned. Prebendary H. L. Franklin, as director of the Diocesan Board of Missions, from September 10, will take over. The Rev. G. H. Williams, of Chilton, Oxfordshire, with Edington, director of Bath and Wells.

The Rev. G. J. Johnson, of Bath and Wells, has accepted the post of Vicar of St Peter's, Filton, near Bristol.

Corrections

A Special Report on Jubilee Britain in January 5 stated correctly that Dr Robert McInerney, now president of the Scottish National Party, refused to take his seat in Parliament after his election as MP for Motherwell in a by-election in 1945. After his election in April of that year Dr McInerney presented himself to the House of Commons as a Member of Parliament for the constituency of Motherwell and Wishaw. He was refused permission to take the oath. He was introduced the next day with ten Labour sponsors and took part in the proceedings of the House because he was elected in the general election in July of that year.

The police review on May 3 will take place at the Peel Centre, Hendon, not at Thames Ditton, as stated in the same Special Report.

Transatlantic yachtswoman opens 600-boat show

Miss Clare Francis, the Atlantic yachtswoman, opened the International Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday.

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs H. E. Sparkes of Harrow, Middlesex, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. E. Whittle, of Nettlebed, Oxfordshire.

Mr T. J. King and Miss J. E. Styles

The engagement is announced between Timothy James, son of Mr and Mrs D. C. McGrath, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Rose, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard and Elizabeth, of Ashurst, Chichester.

Mr D. C. McGrath and Miss J. E. Styles

The engagement is announced between Michael John, son of Mr and Mrs McGrath, of Gorhambury, Hertfordshire, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Lock, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr S. H. Sparke and Miss M. J. Lock

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs H. E. Sparkes of Harrow, Middlesex, and Diana, daughter of

Leyland to challenge Lucas in car parts market

By Clifford Webb
British Leyland is preparing to challenge Lucas Industries for a slice of the profitable auto-electrics and motor fuel systems in the after sales market which Lucas has dominated for so long.

The move, which comes as a surprise to the trade, is in fact a logical follow-up to the recent merger of six Leyland component companies to form SU/Sonic.

The basic plan is to manufacture more equipment for its cars and trucks "in house", as recommended in the Ryder report. The new grouping makes Leyland one of the top 10 component producers in Britain, with a turnover exceeding £65m a year. But its formation has also focused Leyland's attention on the much more profitable spare parts business.

Leyland made a tentative move into auto-electrics some years ago with the Truck and Bus Division set up Butec to manufacture heavy duty starters, motors and alternators for its commercial vehicles.

By merging its wholesale agents handling SU Carburetors with those handling Butec's range, Leyland now has a 100-strong network and the means to win sales from the market leader.

But it must expand its restricted range of products and this it is doing. Contact sets, distributors, ignition coils, rotor arms, brushes, bulbs, flasher units and lighting sets are being added. At present these are being bought from other manufacturers—not Lucas—but if demand warrants they will later be made by Butec.

Mr Tim Worrell, SU/Butec sales and marketing director, said last night: "This is a logical extension of our auto-electric business from the heavy end into passenger car parts. We shall be supplying them for all makes."

Inquiry expected into profits on paint

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

An investigation into prices and profits in the £350m-a-year British paint industry is expected to be ordered soon by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Hattersley, who has been looking at a number of industrial sectors with substantial profit margins, is expected to ask the Price Commission to investigate the structure of the industry, including the exceptional rises in feedstock costs since oil price rises.

In similar references to him, Mr Hattersley has been asked to point out that an investigation does not neces-

sarily imply evidence of profiteering.

The sharpest rises in paint prices, both in the industrial sector—such as marine and car finishes—and in the decorative sector covering the house market, occurred in 1974. Then prices of retail paints rose 50 per cent in a little over six months.

Retail sources said last night that a litre can of white gloss paint, which was retailing at about £1 in 1975, now carried a nominal retail price—recommended prices having been dropped by nearly £1.

But a general chopping of margins from manufacturer through wholesaler to retailer meant that in many outlets

customers could be buying such a litre can at between £1.99 and £2.40.

Mr Graham Chance, president of the London and Southern Counties Ironmongers' Association, said that considerable surplus stocks of paint last year had probably contributed to the relative price stability.

Competition had increased now that supermarkets and discount stores were selling paint in competition with traditional outlets.

The decline in the industrial paint sector, together with the recession in housebuilding, has hit the industry. There are about 350 companies dominated by a few big groups, including ICI, Berger, Jenson

and

Nicholson (a subsidiary of the German Hoechst chemical group), Reed International and Donald Macpherson, manufacturer of paint sold by F. W. Woolworth.

But the strength of the do-it-

yourself market—worth about £70m a year in turnover—has helped makers in the retail sector.

Macpherson is the first half

of last year produced a 23 per cent rise in sales value because of volume delivery improvement compared with the previous year, as well as the effects of price rises and some shortening of cost increases.

Treating profits nearly

doubled at £1.33m and pre-tax

profits almost trebled.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why industry could get better returns from added value

From Mr E. G. Wood

Sir, As a staunch advocate of added value I was delighted to see Maurice Corina's article (December 30) on the ICI proposals for an employee bonus scheme based on added value rather than overall profits. Let us hope that other companies will follow the lead set by ICI.

It was also heartening to see further recommendation of added value by Mr Roy Pickering, national chairman of the Institution of Works Managers on December 31. Many British companies could benefit considerably from making greater use of the added value concept, not only for measuring company performance and for monitoring productivity, but also as a basis for better understanding of the process of wealth creation and for wage and salary policies.

However, before added value is seized upon as the latest panacea, may I issue some words of warning. Those who add value as a basis for a new bonus scheme should look hard (as ICI have done) before they leap. Added value has much wider connotations than bonus schemes. It would be a pity, if not a tragedy, to see added value misused by over-enthusiastic novices.

There are several organiza-

tions and individuals in Britain with experience of using added value for various purposes, but there has been insufficient exchange of information and experience. There is perhaps a need for a new centre for the study of added value to serve as a focal point, to act as a clearing house of information, to carry out research and to devise and present educational programmes on added value and its uses. Such a centre

E. G. WOOD,
Director,
Centre for Innovation and Productivity,
Sheffield City Polytechnic,
Halfords House,
16 Fitzalan Square,
Sheffield S1 2EZ.
January 3.

Making 1977 work for Britain

From Viscount Caldecote

Sir, 1977 seems likely to be a difficult year in many ways, not least in dealing with the twin evils of inflation and unemployment. Although there is virtually unanimous agreement on the need to deal with them, statements by politicians and trade union leaders all too often foster an impression that we are divided on this issue, that some of us are in favour of supporting economies of various kinds, particularly in non-productive government expenditure; while others, enlightened, are against unemployment and therefore resist economies.

Of course, this distinction is quite unreal, and while there is plenty of room for differing views on how we can best deal with inflation and unemployment, it seems sadly unconstructive to promote discord where none need exist. For rapid inflation is a major factor contributing to high unemployment, and our crying need is to spend less on non-wealth-creating activities and to produce more in industry as efficiently as we can. That is the way towards more employment and a stable currency.

We shall never conquer inflation and unemployment by encouraging people to stay in contracting industries, or in jobs which do not contribute to the creation of real wealth;

though, of course, we must look after, as we do, those who have to change their jobs or retire early, to enable redeployment to take place.

Could we not make 1977 "Industry Year" and determine once and for all, managers, politicians and trade union leaders alike, that we will devote all our efforts towards a lasting solution to rapid inflation and massive unemployment by giving, and encouraging others to give, real priority to industry's prosperity and strength, whatever changes and sacrifices that may involve in the short-term? If we can unite in this, many difficult issues, such as prices and incomes policy, taxation levels, public expenditure, and industrial democracy, will be debated in a new and more constructive atmosphere.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN K. POWELL,
Director, Management Course,
Manchester Business School,
Booth Street West,
Manchester.

January 3.

How Whitehall spends tax revenue

From Mr John Harrison

Sir, Thank you for Oliver Stanley's sensible thoughts on the tax mess (December 17). Would you invite him to contribute a further instalment on the proportion of wealth produced that is taken by tax in its various forms. Maybe we in Britain are not all that highly taxed by comparison with one or two countries, but we lack a clear grasp of how much of our wealth is spent by government and of how that spending is subdivided.

Some say about 40 per cent

of GNP is collected by the tax man. I have seen the figure 60 per cent as another estimate.

The variation is a broad one.

And does either figure include

the excess of new money

created over new wealth pro-

duced, which (surely, Mr Stan-

ley?) accrues to government alone and is therefore also a tax?

There are signs of a growing

willingness to question the

efficiency of the government

machine, taxation included, even among those who administer it. May the moment not be right for fostering a greater awareness of where the money goes and how much goes just as in the household? It becomes increasingly important to be clear how much one spends on goods, services, enjoyment, &c., and which one is prepared to curtail in order NOT to outspend income. We accept to listen to the huckstering of various spending agencies: it's something like listening to the children asking for more toys and games without bothering to show them exactly what's available once food, clothes and shelter have been paid for. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer need a good PR man?

Yours truly,

JOHN HARRISON,
Director, Chesham Amalgamations & Investments,

36 Chesham Place,
London SW1X 8HE.

January 4.

£30m worth of wasted N Sea gas

From Mr J. R. F. Moss

Sir, Why no outcry at the government's decision to waste £30m worth of our North Sea reserves by permitting gas to be burnt off? As soon as it was realized, some five years ago, that some of the oil was associated with a high proportion of gas, national policy should have dictated maximum energy recovery.

Quarterly contracts are due

for renewal next month, and

BSACI salaried executives have

signed contracts strongly to place bigger orders with the corporation.

Since the summer the BSC has

steadily increased production,

against the generally depressed

state of the world market, and built up stocks.

It cannot even be pleaded

that the late compressor

delivery was unforeseeable since

precisely the same calamity

struck Phillips' Ekofisk field

two years ago. The Norwegian

Government, however, acted firmly to prohibit large scale oil extraction until the gas

could be safeguarded. Even the

Libyan Government has shown

more wisdom than ours when

they prevented Gulf Oil from

exporting any oil until they had

an assured market for the

associated gas.

Shell and Occidental cannot

be blamed for seeking to earn

early revenue from their huge

capital outlay but severe pen-

alties must accrue to the Depart-

ment of Energy for lack of fore-sight and failure to act

even now.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. F. MOSS,
25 Church Street,
Stapleford,
Cambridge CB2 5DS.

December 13.

BINNING

COMPANY MEETING

PLAXTON'S (SCARBOROUGH) LIMITED

(Luxury Coach Body Builders)

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr F. W. Plaxton for the year ended August 31st, 1976:

An increase of 34% in turnover produced an improvement in pre-tax profits from £76,013 to £91,210.

Coch Building: The agreement concluded with our labour force together with recruitment and elimination of initial problems enabled better production levels and margins to be attained in the second half of the year.

Repairs and Service: This Division had a somewhat mixed year. Due to increased competition and the long dry summer, repair work was inconsistent, but sales of spare parts increased greatly and more than the previous year.

Wifred Overton Limited: Higher orders and output in the last months together with improved internal controls resulted in the final contribution exceeding that achieved last year.

Building: Every full activity was maintained throughout the year both on contract work and shopfitting. In the prevailing conditions the results produced were most satisfactory.

Although forecasting the outcome of this year is a hazardous task, there are factors in the Group's favour. Our new "Viewmaster" coach was very well received and we have a very healthy order book. Further progress has been made in the export field. Production is continuing at the higher level attained in the latter months of last year. In the absence of further general legislation and unforeseeable obstacles I am reasonably confident that improved results will be achieved.

Recovery in exports of car products

In brief

Hawker Siddeley wins £6.4m Arab orders

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering is to build a £4m, seven-megawatt diesel power station in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) under a contract obtained through Kennedy & Donkin, consulting engineers, for the Sharjah Electricity Department.

According to Hawker Siddeley, less than a fortnight elapsed from the initial request to the completion of designs and negotiations.

For the first 11 months of last year motor industry exports were worth £2,982m, 27 per cent up on the same period of 1975. Total imports for the period were £1,505m, up 52 per cent on the previous year.

Overseas sales of motor parts, components and accessories were at a record total of £148m, half as much again as the value in November 1975.

Healthy UK energy surplus forecast to 1990

Continuing high fuel prices and continuing efforts to promote conservation should enable Britain to enjoy an energy surplus up to 1990 and still export significantly, according to a new report from Cambridge Information and Research Services.

The report, "The Energy Markets to 1990", points out that high prices and efforts to conserve fuel are helping to keep down consumption when Britain's North Sea oil and gas production is expanding rapidly. In the studies undertaken by the group, Britain emerges as the state of the world market, and built up stocks.

Tokyo export credits at end-year record

December export letters of credit in Japan hit a record monthly high value of \$4.675m, up from the \$4.153m total in November. December and the \$3.942m total in November, the Bank of Japan said yesterday. The previous high was \$4.391m set in March, 1976.

Opec experts to discuss aid fundings

Finance experts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet in Vienna on Monday to discuss aid programmes for 1977, an Opec spokesman said.

Machine tool orders on better trend

New orders for Britain's machine tool industry for both home and overseas markets improved markedly in the third quarter of 1976. According to the same period of 1975.

Board reshuffle confirms Holsten's status

By Ronald Emmer

Reconstitution of the board of Holsten Distributors, which imports Holsten lager and markets it in Britain, announced yesterday, confirms the brand as Grand Metropolitan's premium lager in the United Kingdom.

The

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GEC offers a bird in the hand

There are two points of importance about the GEC capital restructuring: its general implications and the specific implications for GEC shareholders.

To deal with the second first, it would not be surprising if the market finds the present proposals mildly disappointing.

Certainly, the proposals represent a choice of higher income or executive capital repayment for existing shareholders—but they do not produce a higher income base for prospective purchasers of the stock to look forward to in future. In short, the capital note entitlement, GEC shares will not be a vastly different animal from the shares ahead of the proposals—share earnings per share are reduced by the extent of the interest on the note, and assets per share are also reduced by the amount of capital redesignated from shareholders' funds to the loan capital account.

And on the basis of that, what is the correct price for a share that will still remain hampered by the feeling that it is a low yielder? At 150p, for instance, the yield will be a mere 3.6 per cent.

That said, existing shareholders are being offered a fairly tasty bird in the hand. But in a general context, is that a flagrant breach of the spirit of restraint or not? Arguably, it is not. What it is in effect is a release of income on capital that has been freed as a result of a successful rationalisation of these businesses: it involves no repayment of that capital "gain" which remains in the business for further expansion—albeit that this may well be overseas.

Whether or not one feels that income should be released in this way in the present climate—the authorities appear to have no objection—the more important point is that it highlights once more the absurd type of distortions that can occur under present Government policies.

GEC, moreover, will not be the last to look at this kind of scheme. There are a number of other companies with schemes of their own up their sleeves, albeit not to apply them to rather different circumstances. And on the investment side there are those who are also considering new ways of investing in industry to get round the problem of the politically restricted equity share.

Allied Breweries

Holding the margins

Prospective investors in Allied Breweries still have to weigh a high yield against a high price earnings ratio, for in each respect Allied's shares, now yielding 8.35 per cent at 65p, and selling at 10 times earnings, are a point and more ahead of the opposition.

In terms of the group's immediate prospects, a premium in the price would be hard to justify. For although last year's performance was depressed to the tune of some 60m by the inter-union dispute which disrupted business at Ansell's in the first half of the year, this same round earnings will reflect the inflation inherent in November's purchase of Teachers'. The net result is likely to be pre-tax profits in the region of £75m and earnings little changed.

That, of course, assumes some internal growth; not an unreasonable assumption after a second half performance which fell little short of that recently reported by Bass and Whitbread, even though Allied can now claim to have "more or less" recovered the market share lost during the Ansell's dispute.

This time round the group is "reasonably optimistic" about beer volume, and cheerful about the outlook for its big wines and spirits division, which also put in a strong performance in the second six months of last year.

The principal determinant of profits will, however, be margins, which should at least



Mr Keith Showering, chairman of Allied Breweries: optimistic about beer volume.

discounting further growth, though the yield of 7.9 per cent at 92p, up 5p yesterday, is above average.

Nine months 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £44.4m
Sales £57.2m (£47.7m)
Pre-tax profits £6.42m (£3.94m)

Gilts

Experiments at last?

Floating rate bonds have been viewed by some as the obvious solution to the problem of investors' crippling inability to keep pace with inflation. Such a bond might not quite match the rate of inflation but, being geared to money market rates, would at least approximate it, and rise and fall in line with it.

Yet ironically, if the Government unveils a floating rate bond today, as some expect, it will almost certainly be to a less than rapturous reception. Investing institutions are, by their nature, suspicious of an instrument offering variable returns which cannot be measured against the computer satisfaction with present methods.

These are likely to have undermined some of the improvement in the end-September balance sheet, which shows net borrowings some £6m lower despite a £12m cut in the revolver of £12m funding rate bond.

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with present methods.

However, although the technology now exists for full-scale electronic banking, it has so far failed to make much of an impact on the financial system at the consumer level. Many bank customers seem reluctant to embrace banking of this kind for reasons which range from distrust of the computer to dissatisfaction with present methods.

Moreover, many financial institutions are brimming at the heavy expense of installing and operating electronic systems, particularly in light of the lukewarm response from the public.

Behind the changeover is a soaring volume of cheques which threatens to choke the banking system despite strides made in recent years in streamlining the industry's cumbersome, labour-intensive cheque-clearing organization.

An impetus for electronic banking is also provided by the competition between the banks and the savings institutions for the nation's \$700,000m of consumer deposits—a battle that has intensified recently as savings institutions have won the right in many areas to offer cheque privileges.

Since the early 1970s financial institutions have pursued individual depositors largely by building branches wherever possible, but today, banking experts see electronic banking as ultimately providing a cheaper and more efficient way of attracting deposits.

The most visible development so far is the estimated 6,000 automated teller and cash machines that have been installed by banks and savings bodies both in their offices and in places such as shopping centres, office buildings and airports.

Cheaper and more compact remote terminals, about 10,000 of them so far, have appeared in the check-out areas and credit departments of supermarkets and other retailers.

About a dozen financial institutions have also started offering a bill-paying-by-telephone service. Payments are electronically deducted from customer accounts and routed to the accounts of the parties being paid. It is all done without our cheques or postage.

The courts have held that electronic terminals, such as automated tellers and full-service point-of-sale units, are functioning like branches and therefore are subject to state branching laws.

These laws, which exist in nearly 50 states, limit branches geographically—to one county, say, or to a given number of branches within a given distance of the main bank.

The legal muddle may not be settled for some time. According to congressional sources, legislation is expected to be introduced during the present session of the Congress that would free electronic banking from branch restrictions. But the bill is not likely to be considered before late this year when the National Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer, which was established by Congress to examine a broad range of public issues related to electronic banking, is scheduled to complete its work.

'Banks in the home' receive a check

Banks in the United States are encountering problems in their attempts to bring about the much talked-about electronic-banking revolution. Among them are legal headaches such as a court ruling that the electronic terminals constituted illegal branch banks under Illinois law.

Since the 1950s, American banking experts have talked of a day when the bulk of routine financial transactions, whether deposits, withdrawals or the paying of bills, would be done electronically through remote computer terminals situated conveniently in supermarkets, offices or even private homes.

In this ideal world cheques would all but disappear. Instead, networks of bank computers, linked electronically, would shuttle funds throughout America, settling in seconds the myriad transactions that normally take days to complete under the present cheques-clearing system.

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Jonathan R. Laing
AP-Dow Jones

North-west: is self-help enough to generate prosperity?

Although industrial planning officials in the North-west have complained that the region's share of the EEC Regional Development Fund is "disappointing", industry leaders have said that North-west industry itself does not need to be propped up by "other people". It can, they claim, generate its own prosperity if it puts its mind to it.

The two points of view are not necessarily in conflict. On the one hand industrial development officials have criticized with some of the worst unemployment black spot in the country has been allocated only £2.7m from the fund while the North-east is getting £11.6m and Scotland £8.5m out of a total allocation to Britain of £28.8m.

Mr Clifford Chapman, director of the North-West Industrial Development Association, says these figures illustrate the fact that the North-west is still not getting its fair share of aid. He points to the fact that although the money comes from the EEC, decisions on priorities are taken by the British Government and that since the regional fund was started the North-west had had about 10 per cent of the total British allocation.

However, the view that North-west industry is capable, given the chance, of generating its own, and therefore the region's, prosperity is one of the main conclusions reached in the report of a survey carried out by the regional headquarters of the Confederation of British Industry.

Behind the changeover is a soaring volume of cheques which threatens to choke the banking system despite strides made in recent years in streamlining the industry's cumbersome, labour-intensive cheque-clearing organization.

That survey shows that each of the 53,000 people working for five large organizations in the North-west provided work for one other person among its suppliers or in the retail trades.

The purchased goods and services became, after processing, sales worth £67.7m, both at home and abroad, representing an "added value" of £31.0m. Of this "added value", after paying employee costs which in

cludes salaries, pensions and the gross national product of the United Kingdom in 1975 was £94.95m so that the five organizations had just about £45m left for investment.

With this money they not only had to purchase new plant and equipment but also pay interest and dividends, repay loans and finance their working capital.

Mr Michael Tatline, chairman of the CBI study group, says: just how much the presence of successful industry benefits the local community and how essential it is for industry to thrive if people are to be drawn back into productive employment.

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Greenall Whitley (brewers), ICI

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Although the survey has thrown up some interesting facts, it is hardly likely to lead to any lessening of pressure on the government for continuing and increasing regional economic aid. Indeed there is already strong reaction to the Chancellor's decision to end the Regional Employment Premium.

Results of another survey just published—this time by the Amalgamated Textile Workers—show that in every five jobs in the Lancashire textile industry would have been at risk but for the Government's £20 a week temporary employment subsidy.

In all during the past year 74 spinning and manufacturing firms with 12,300 workers turned to the emergency aid scheme. This represents more than 21 per cent of the total employed in spinning and manufacturing. Textile industry applications accounted for nearly 19 per cent of all applications for subsidy from industry in the North-West and 38 per cent of the jobs threatened.

The survey also shows that 34 textile firms have announced redundancies involving nearly 5,200 workers. These have already taken place or will do so during 1977.

Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the union, says: "It makes us very concerned as to what is likely to happen if the temporary employment subsidy is withdrawn before the fortunes of the Lancashire textile industry have improved".

R W Shakespeare examines

recent studies of the

region's industrial health

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Electronics put the blind and deaf in closer touch with the printed word

Earlier this week the ability to call up "teletext" pages of information on the screen of a domestic television set reached the general public—or at least those who happened to be in Knightsbridge, London, with ERTS to spare.

At this price Harrods are now offering the first production models of the Pye Labege teletext adapter for colour television sets. This enables the BBC Ceefax and IBA Oracle services of broadcast pages of news and other information to be received simply by connecting the adapter to the set and then selecting the appropriate pages by means of a calculator-like keypad.

While the general benefits of teletext are becoming familiar, its potential for deaf viewers has been largely overlooked.

Together with the Post Office's proposed telephone-linked Viewdata service, teletext could help to revolutionize communications for the deaf and the hard of hearing.

A modest programme is now under way to help to make teletext adaptors or decoders available to deaf people. This is one of several examples of the application of new technology to the problems which face the deaf and the blind.

These laws, which exist in nearly 50 states, limit branches geographically—to one county, say, or to a given number of branches within a given distance of the main bank.

The legal muddle may not be settled for some time. According to congressional sources, legislation is expected to be introduced during the present session of the Congress that would free electronic banking from branch restrictions. But the bill is not likely to be considered before late this year when the National Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer, which was established by Congress to examine a broad range of public issues related to electronic banking, is scheduled to complete its work.

Meanwhile, in Knightsbridge, London, the second half of the year is likely to drop to between £100 and £150 over the same period, if electronic calculator experience is any guide, as production volumes increase.

By volunteer assembly, purchase of components at discount prices and, possibly, support from one of the larger foundations, Deaf-Fax hopes to be able to provide teletext decoders at a rental of perhaps £1 a week within the next few years, and to gain feedback on their use that will be of general educational value.

Deaf-Fax is applying for charitable status as a company and means while it gets things moving with the help of a volunteer labour from an electronics club in Wallingford, money raised by local groups (a fund-raising "pub crawl" by Harwell apprentices raised £200) and hardware donated by Plessey and Texas Instruments.

Deaf-Fax is also developing a

hand the shape of the letters is reproduced via a series of vibrating rods.

This system was developed by Telesensory Systems in the United States and introduced in Britain via the Royal National Institute of the Blind.

Mr John Ford, a former technical officer with the RNIB, is now running Sensory Aid Systems, a London business which holds the United Kingdom agency for the Optacon.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities continue post-Christmas advance

With encouraging lending and industrial investment figures reinforcing an already firm tone, share prices gained ground for the sixth consecutive day.

Once again most trading was confined to the morning session, but bargains marked of 5,600 were the best for three weeks. The FT Index, 8.3 ahead at 2 pm, was later held profit-taking to close at 367.8, a net gain of 5.1 on the day.

Renewed takeover talk brought more speculation in Newcastle shipowner Common Brothers. The shares jumped 12p to 160p. Favoured potential suitors are Sunbeam, which has about 18 per cent, and British & Commonwealth through its stake in Monteith Investment, which holds 10.5 per cent.

It now stands more than 100 points better than the 1976 "low" reached in late October with more than 25 per cent of this recovery coming since Christmas.

The trend to lower interest rates again spurred gilts while "shorts" rose one-eighth and medium and long-dated stocks were better by as much as one-half. The expectation of a 14 per cent MLR helped the Government Broker to sell more of the 15½ per cent long "tap" at £99.1. Among the big-name indust-

rial leaders, most interest centred on GEC which came out with its capital reorganisation plans late in the day.

Before the news the shares rose 8p to 181p but thereafter jobbers did not deal. Elsewhere, Hawker Siddeley continued its run with another 10p gain to 472p, Tubs Investments gained 6p to 318p and GKN 5p to 299p. But after early strength, ICI settled back to an unchanged 350p after profit-taking.

Paper and printing shares were wanted again, particularly De La Rue, better by 7p to 247p, and Dickenson Robinson 6p to 96p. At the close, WH Smith "A" stood 3p better at 341p, there were ruperry gains from Bowater 184p and Reed 194p with Beaverbrook "A" adding 1p to 39p. Associated Newspapers succumbed to profit-taking after its recent run which has been based on North Sea hopes.

The shares ended 6p off at 130p, but other North Sea stocks continued to go up, notably Berry, Wiggin's 5p to 38p, NC Gas 10p to 270p and Siemens Gas 12p to 132p. Though more subdued than in recent days, shipping shares again had some firm spots. These included British & Commonwealth 5p to 220p, Manchester Liners 5p to 220p, Reed "A" 5p to 75p and European Ferries, an active stock and 3p to the good at 58p.

Electricals, too, were in demand, the best proving to be Thorn "A" up 6p to 222p ahead

Ocean Wilsons jumped 8p to 156p on bid hopes.

One already to have received an approach is Kodal Inter-

Up went paint maker and Woolworth supplier Donald Macpherson 4p to 44p after a 5p rise for Wednesday. Figures for the year to last October are due next month. Business prospered in the first six months, and margins widened sharply. It could be that market hopes of £2.5m against £2m were conservative. Profits could have been around £3m.

national and the shares added another 2p to 58p. Bookmakers, Ladbrokes, up 1p to 91p and Coral, 2p to 101p, both staged a partial recovery from recent losses.

Frosts more or less in line with the market's expectations, left Allied Breweries unchanged at 65p, after 5p, while Vaux up to 235p, Wolverhampton & Dudley 10p to 119p and Bass Charrington 3p to 97p were other bright spots on the pitch.

Dundon & Elliott added 4p to 42p after news of the low acceptances of Johnson Firth Brown's terms with other good engineers being Glynned 6p to 63p and Metal Box 4p to 256p.

Electricals, too, were in de-

mmand, the best proving to be

Thorn "A" up 6p to 222p ahead

of figures, International Computers 7p to 160p, BICC 5p to 50p and Comet Radio 5p to 50p after the annual meeting.

Food shares continued to go ahead with Associated Dairies another 8p better at 200p, Kwik Save up 5p to 138p, Tate & Lyle 6p to 270p and United Bis-

cuits 3p to 134p.

The oil majors could not keep up the pace of recent days and BP fell 12p to 824p on Wall Street. In contrast, the Lasmo-Scot units closed another 6p to the good at 278p, a rise of 18p after figures to the market's liking.

The value of all deals in December was £10,783,677, slightly better than the £10,605,565 recorded in November, and the best figure since January of last year. Final figures for stocks totalled £10,193,666.

Selection Trust put on another 10p to 475p or further reflection of the good drilling results from the Teutonic Bore copper/zinc/silver prospect in Australia. The results also dragged up Charter Consolidated, which has 28.8 per cent of Selection, up 9p to 134p after weeks of uninspiring performance.

In the financial sector, the firmness of the gilt-edged market helped issues like Cater Ryder 11p to 248p, Gillett Brothers 5p to 175p, Allen Harvey & Ross 20p to 370p and jobber Akroyd & Smithers which ended 10p firmer at 185p.

Morgan Crucible rose 5p to 92p after figures to the market's liking.

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He argues that the net tangible assets for every Hestair share has been reduced by 24 per cent.

Spear does not produce any specific profit forecast, but Mr de Bartolomeo reports that there has been a strong increase in orders since the end of the summer holidays.

He says that "the improvement has produced substantially better results".

Hestair's former finance director, Mr R. H. H. Nellist, has resigned his executive role at Hestair but remains on the board as a non-executive director for the time being.

On a historical basis of accounting, pre-tax profits for the 15 months are £6.8m against £3.7m, or turnover £12.24m, £7.5m. On a current cost accounting basis, this becomes a profit of £4.14m against £2m—a 61 per cent rise on an annualized basis.

Chamberlin & Hill Chamberlin and Hill has bought Plat Malleable Castings and its subsidiary Arthur Morgan (Engineers) for £175,000 cash.

Plat Malleable Castings is a malleable iron foundry and Arthur Morgan (Engineers) makes conduit fittings and accessories.

The book value of consolidated net assets, as shown in the audited balance sheet for 1975, was £180,000 and the profit before tax was £22,700.

Poor trading will mean that the consolidated results of the two companies will show a loss for 1976 for the year to March 31 next but since then the cost of borrowing money has jumped.

Even so, the directors now expect that, despite high interest rates in the second half-year and other things, bigger sales and new rentals "materially" ahead of those made in the whole of 1974/75 when they were £2.26m.

In his annual statement the chairman simply referred to profits "in excess" of the previous record year. Comet is an electrical discounter and retailer.

Latest dividends

Company Ord div Year Pay date Year's total prev year

Allied Breweries (25p) Int 2.4 2.18 1/3 3.51 3.10

Austin Bldgs (25p) Int 0.75 0.75 18/2 — 2.18

Stearns Simpson (25p) 0.55 0.50 16/2 — 2.28

Symonds Eng (5p) Int 0.37 0.26 28/2 — 1.08

Symonds Bldgs (25p) Int 1.0 1.0 16/2 — 2.78

Tomkinson Bldgs (25p) Int 0.3 0.28 1/4 — 3.67

Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

B & C Shipping gains Menteith

Bricomin Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of British & Commonwealth Shipping, has gained control of Menteith Investment Trust after a spate of buying. It already held over 17 per cent. Menteith was formerly Ralli Securities Trust.

Bricomin has now agreed to buy from Ralli Securities, a subsidiary of Bowater Corporation, its holding of 10m Menteith shares at 16p cash plus 1.65p. Bricomin will then own 53.79 per cent of Menteith Barings on behalf of Bricomin will offer cash for the rest at the same price.

Comet even more cheerful now

If anything, the chairman of Comet Radioservices, Mr M. J. Hollingbery, was even more cheerful at the annual meeting than in his December yearly statement.

He said yesterday that business and margins had continued to go well, and he now expects profits for the six months to next February to be "materially" ahead of those made in the whole of 1974/75 when they were £2.26m.

In his annual statement the chairman simply referred to profits "in excess" of the previous record year. Comet is an electrical discounter and retailer.

El Rental still on set course

Dear Money has not shown Electronic Rentals, the TV rental, off course. A year ago Mr Maurice Fry, chairman, predicted pre-tax profits of around £10m for the year to March 31 next but since then the cost of borrowing money has jumped.

Even so, the directors now expect that, despite high interest rates in the second half-year and other things, bigger sales and new rentals "materially" ahead of those made in the whole of 1974/75 when they were £2.26m.

In the six months to September 30 turnover climbed from £30.47m to £42.37m. Depreciation rose from 26.9m to nearly £39.9m but interest fell from £1.84m to £1.29m.

Symonds Engineering

With sales down from £925,000 to £805,000 in the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits of Symonds Engineering fell from £128,000 to £104,000. The gross interim payment rises from 0.4p to 0.57p to reduce the disparity between payments.

The board reports that the order intake is creeping up and, if this continues, it hopes that the year's results will be "satisfactory". If so, the board

Spear & Jackson's contempt**for Hestair's £5.75m bid**

Hestair's £5.75m bid for hand

tool and saw manufacturer

Spear & Jackson is dismissed as

"inadequate" and "opportunist"

by Mr S. M. de Bartolomeo,

Spear's chairman in a contemporaneous rejection document.

Mr de Bartolomeo states that

Hestair has failed to offer any

explanation for a drop in

Hestair's net tangible assets

between last January and the

date of the offer document last

month.

He argues that the net tan-

gible assets for every Hestair

share has been reduced by 24

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Spear does not produce any

specific profit forecast, but Mr

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

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New Life Business

New sums assured by Eagle Star top £1,000m

A record increase in new life business is reported by the Eagle Star Group for 1976.

New amounts assured in the United Kingdom were £1,101m (£555m in 1975), including £36m (£27m) in respect of the capitalized value of deferred annuities. Worldwide net new amounts assured were £1,316m (£662m).

New annual premium income in the United Kingdom in 1976 reached £15.25m (£9.06m), while including overseas business, the total figures were 17.75m (£10.66m). Total new single premiums and considerations for immediate annuities were also higher at £35.77m (£25.07m); these figures arose almost entirely in the United Kingdom.

RESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE
New annual premium income under life assurance and annuity offices during 1976 exceeded £m (net of reinsurance) for the first time in the society's history, reaching the highest and unbreakable rate of growth as it was only in 1974 that firm was achieved.

COTTISH MUTUAL
During 1976 net new annual premiums and considerations written up 4.1m (£3.4m in 1975) and single premiums and annuity considerations £3.3m (£1.8m). Corresponding new life sums assured of 18.2m (£12.4m) and new premiums and annuities £7.9m per annum (£5m).

JLBANK LIFE ASSURANCE
In 1976 new sums assured increased by 162 per cent to £27.1m, new annual premium rates were 19.75m, single premium rates 14.1m, and Albany Life is a subsidiary of the American General insurance Group.

LERICAL, MEDICAL
Clinical, Medical and General life reports show total net premiums and considerations increased by 10.5 per cent in 1976 to £9.2m. Net new annual premiums and considerations were £4.8m (£3.6m in 1975) and single premiums and annuity considerations £3.3m (£1.8m). Corresponding new life sums assured of 18.2m (£12.4m) and new premiums and annuities £7.9m per annum (£5m).

ATIONAL PROVIDENT
National Provident Institution announces that the amounts of new business written during 1976 included record levels. Net annual premiums £11.9m (up 9.8 per cent); Single premiums for insurance and annuities, £9.9m (up 7.1 per cent); New sums assured, £19.75m (£26 per cent).

ONDON & MANCHESTER
Industrial branch: Annual premiums of £2.75m in 1976 (£2.53m 1975) providing sums assured £37.04m (£36.93m). Ordinary branch: Annual premiums of £6.21m (£5.61m) together providing sums assured of £47.89m (50.36m).

RIENDS' PROVIDENT
Friends Provident Life Office new sums assured for 1976 of £70.2m (£75.6m). New unit trusts, £4.3m (£3.5m), permanent health insurance was insured pa, £23.5m (£30.7m). Annual premiums £51.2m (41.3m), new single premiums, 9.9m (£4.9m).

ANNON ASSURANCE
New gross annual premiums for 1976 were £2.2m (1975, £2.6m). New single premiums were £5.77m (7.5, £3.3m).

australia allows e Nickel go-ahead
Government approval has been given in Australia to Le Nickel of France to go ahead with a feasibility study at the Ambio, New South Wales, coal mine of the Hartogen group, under an agreement valid until March 9. Le Nickel will invest to \$A3.5m. This comprises £2m in loan capital and £2m in redeemable preference area. Hartogen will match the Nickel investment.

The Hartogen group comprises Genoa Oil (20 per cent), Itron Oil (20 per cent), Sympus Petroleum (15 per cent), Omega Oil (12 per cent), General Exploration & Minerals (7 per cent), and Simon Exploration (7 per cent).

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank 14%

Consolidated Credits 14%

First London Secs 14%

C. Hoare & Co. 14%

Lloyds Bank 14%

Midland Bank 14%

Nat Westminster 14%

Rossmoor Acc's 14%

Sheeney Trust 16%

Williams & Glyn's 14%

£7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 11% up to £25,000, 11% over £25,000, 11%.

Commodities

COPPER

Wheat

Barley

Bacon

Meat

Stock Exchange Prices

More good gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. § Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 21.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

